United Nations A/68/945–S/2014/482

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 July 2014
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 35
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 24 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) committed in May 2014 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-57294 (E) 210714

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Annex to the identical letters dated 24 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Land violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
30 April 2014	1530	An enemy patrol near the Shaykh Abbad position pointed a machine gun mounted on a troop carrier for one minute towards personnel from Observer Group Lebanon who were conducting a routine patrol along the Blue Line opposite the village of Hawla.
1 May 2014	1130	An Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer vehicles and a Defender vehicle approached opposite the Abbadin position between points B71-2 and B72, near the town of Hawla. Seven soldiers stepped out, opened the gate in the technical fence and crossed the Blue Line at the point having the coordinates Q:736701–N:3676770, entering Lebanese territory by some 20 metres. At 1150 hours, they returned into occupied territory.
3 May 2014	1130	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy patrol pointed a machine gun mounted on a vehicle towards Lebanese soldiers in the above-mentioned area, near point M2.
4 May 2014	1845	An Israeli enemy patrol comprising three vehicles approached from within occupied Palestinian territory. Nine soldiers stepped out, filmed Lebanese territory and made obscene gestures at inhabitants from the town of Blida who were walking outside the town, near Bi'r Shu'ayb.
9 May 2014	1240	In the locality of Shahl on the outskirts of Shab'a town, a 15-person Israeli enemy patrol crossed some 50 metres into the area to which Lebanon maintains a claim. They attempted to abduct the civilians Isma'il Qasim Zahrah, Muhammad Husayn Zahrah and Isma'il Husayn Zahrah, who fled, and seized their herd of some 100 head of goats. At 1320 hours, the patrol withdrew into occupied territory, releasing the goats.
11 May 2014	1155	While the Israeli enemy was clearing grass between points M1 (to which Lebanon maintains a claim) and M2, opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, one of the engineering machines extended its boom over the technical fence into Lebanese territory, where it cleared some grass. At 1200 hours, the same machine uprooted a tree in Lebanese territory and damaged another. In so doing, it removed the camouflage from a Lebanese Army fortification some 100 metres west of point M2 (2). The machine also moved two cement blocks from within Lebanese territory, placing them south of the technical fence. Enemy forces stopped work at 1400 hours and then resumed at 1500 hours between points M2 (2) and B3, north of the technical fence. Work continued until 1630 hours.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
12 May 2014	1600 1635	While the Israeli enemy was carrying out excavation work next to the technical fence 25 metres east of point B4, opposite Naqurah, debris was shovelled north of the Blue Line into Lebanese territory.
13 May 2014	1345	In the vicinity of point B5, opposite Naqurah, the Israeli enemy used the boom of an excavator to cut down a large tree between the technical fence and the Blue Line. The tree fell two metres into Lebanese territory.
14 May 2014	0700 1200	The Israeli enemy erected a metal mesh fence around the Radar position in the occupied Shab'a Farms.
	0800	An Israeli enemy four-wheel drive vehicle equipped with a surveillance camera that had been mounted on a five-metre pole approached from within occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Blida and near Bi'r Shu'ayb. It proceeded to monitor Lebanese territory before withdrawing at 1410 hours on 15 May 2014.
	1500	While a civilian excavator was dredging the Lebanese side of the riverbed of the Wazzani River under the supervision of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, an enemy Israeli patrol within occupied Palestinian territory continuously pointed a 12.7 mm medium machine gun mounted on a Humvee vehicle towards adjacent Lebanese territory throughout the work. The patrol opened and passed through the metal gate in the technical fence and headed towards the road opposite point OP8, walking 150 metres alongside the Wazzani river.
	1830	An Israeli enemy patrol comprising a Hummer vehicle and two all-terrain vehicles stopped opposite the Lebanese Army observation point at Wazzani (OP8), inside occupied territory. Eight soldiers stepped out, opened the gate opposite the observation point, crossed the technical fence and went downhill without crossing the Blue Line. At 1930 hours, the patrol withdrew to occupied territory with their vehicles after closing the gate.
15 May 2014	0810	From its position opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy patrol trained its weapons on and made obscene gestures at Lebanese Army soldiers belonging to the Lebanese Intelligence Directorate (Southern Branch).
	0830	From opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, between points B2 and M2 (2), an Israeli enemy patrol trained its weapons at a Lebanese Army patrol belonging to the Lebanese Intelligence Directorate (Southern Branch).

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
18 May 2014	0950	While Israeli enemy forces were clearing grass north of the technical fence opposite point B6, in the Labbunah area, an engineering machine violated the Blue Line when it extended its boom through the air approximately one metre into Lebanese territory.
	1500	From near the Labbunah-Jall al-'Alam position in occupied Palestinian territory, an Israeli enemy patrol pointed a medium automatic weapon mounted on a military vehicle towards Lebanese Army soldiers belonging to the Lebanese Intelligence Directorate (Southern Branch).
	1540	From near the Jall al-'Alam position, opposite the B6 (1) point at Labbunah in occupied Palestinian territory, an Israeli enemy patrol pointed a medium automatic weapon mounted on a military vehicle towards Lebanese Army soldiers belonging to the Lebanese Intelligence Directorate (Southern Branch).
19 May 2014	0130 0200	An Israeli enemy patrol comprising four Hummer vehicles, a Land Rover vehicle and a Poclain excavator approached point TP37, opposite the town of Udaysah, from inside occupied territory. Using the Poclain excavator, the patrol removed a device consisting of a radar and a four-metre pole, to which a robotic camera had been affixed, over the technical fence from the area to which Lebanon maintains a claim. The device had been installed on 31 December 2013, as stated in communication No. 190/'*ayn*/*mim*, dated 11 January 2014.
	1400	The Israeli enemy set ablaze some dry grass in area B14, north of the occupied town of Ghajar. The fire spread as far the position of the Spanish unit (4-28) at Abbasiyah. At 1900 hours, the fire burning in the environs of the above-mentioned position detonated a landmine without causing any injuries. At 2145 hours, the fire was extinguished by Civil Defence personnel and the Lebanese Army.
20 May 2014	1600	While a Lebanese Army patrol was monitoring the actions of the Israeli enemy adjacent to the technical fence, opposite the village of Kafr Killa, an enemy soldier spoke to a Lebanese Army soldier in Lebanese dialect, saying: "Do you know someone in the army named Abdullah al-Halabi, who's serving in Tyre? Why won't you speak to me? There's nobody watching you. By the way, my grandmother is from Kufayr." The Lebanese soldier did not reply.
21 May 2014	0800	Inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Kafr Killa, the Israeli enemy personnel using two roadrollers, two Poclains, an excavator, a military bulldozer and a civilian truck, and accompanied by an enemy patrol comprising two armoured jeeps, a Hummer vehicle and a Land Rover vehicle, completed repairs to the road running adjacent to the technical fence. The vehicles trained their weapons on Lebanese territory. At

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
		1300 hours, two enemy soldiers climbed onto the platform on the separation wall and dismantled the camera that they had previously installed there. Members of the Israeli patrol also directed abuse at civilians passing by on foot inside Lebanese territory and made inappropriate gestures. The work ended at 1650 hours and all the vehicles withdrew into occupied territory.
	1200	An enemy patrol directed verbal abuse at a Lebanese Army patrol monitoring actions by the Israeli enemy inside occupied Palestinian territory adjacent to the technical fence, opposite the village of Kafr Killa.
	1230	At the Ruwaysat al-Alam position on the outskirts of the town of Kafr Shuba, Israeli enemy soldiers threw a smoke grenade and shot at a herd of goats belonging to Yusuf al-'Aqidi, who had been grazing them 150 metres from the withdrawal line. No injuries were caused.
	1300	From inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Kafr Killa, members of an Israeli enemy patrol directed abuse at civilians passing by on foot inside Lebanese territory and made inappropriate gestures.
22 May 2014	1100	From inside occupied territory, near crossing point B82, opposite the Kafr Killa-Udaysah road, two members of an enemy patrol directed verbal abuse at a Lebanese Army patrol on the Lebanese side of the border. The Lebanese patrol was monitoring actions carried out by the Israeli enemy adjacent to the technical fence.
26 May 2014	1245	A patrol comprising a Hummer vehicle, a black civilian vehicle and a Land Rover vehicle approached from inside occupied Palestinian territory, opposite the Kafr Killa-Udaysah road. Five patrol members, two of whom were in plain clothes, stepped out and filmed Lebanese territory. They finished work at 1300 hours and returned into occupied territory with their vehicles.
27 May 2014	0920	Opposite the town of Rumaysh, in Wadi Qatmun, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising 21 soldiers and a dog crossed the technical fence, without crossing the Blue Line, between points B38(1) and B39. They deployed in the area and repaired a gap in the barbed wire fence opposite point B38 (2). At 1015 hours, the patrol returned into occupied territory.
28 May 2014	0700	An Israeli enemy Merkava tank joined a troop carrier and a Merkava tank that had been deployed opposite Lebanese Army observation point OP8. They trained their weapons on Lebanese territory and an enemy foot patrol approached from pillar No. 40, crossed the technical fence, without crossing the Blue Line, and went up to the gate opposite the observation point at the pump. They moved between the trees alongside the river, although the purpose of their movements was unclear. They withdrew at 0915 hours, with the exception of the two Merkava tanks and the troop carrier, which took up positions behind the earthen berm opposite observation point OP8. The vehicles withdrew at 1130 hours.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
29 May 2014	0830	An Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer vehicles, a Land Rover vehicle and a white van approached the Abbasiyah Gate from inside occupied territory. Fifteen soldiers stepped out and opened the gate. While some soldiers took up combat positions, others walked up and down for five minutes, using a device to survey the road inside occupied territory in the vicinity of the gate. Four Israeli enemy soldiers then stepped one metre inside the area with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim. At 0850 hours, upon the arrival of Lebanese Army soldiers, they closed the gate and withdrew into occupied territory.
	1330	While a Lebanese Army patrol belonging to the Lebanese Intelligence Directorate (Southern Branch) was on patrol along the border near point B90, opposite the Khiyam plain, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer vehicles arrived and pointed its weapons and shouted obscenities at members of the Lebanese patrol. At 1340 hours, the enemy patrol withdrew into occupied territory.

Sea violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
4 May 2014	2325	From occupied Palestinian territorial waters, an Israeli enemy launch directed a searchlight towards the Lebanese Army position at Ra's al-Naqurah for 35 seconds.
12 May 2014	1000 1100	Some 200 metres from the Lebanese coast, off Ra's al-Naqurah, three Israeli enemy launches released two divers who installed a new yellow conical buoy 25 metres from the existing row of buoys positioned by the Israeli enemy. In so doing, they committed a violation by penetrating 25 metres into Lebanese territorial waters, as well as by installing the buoys. The divers then left on a launch into occupied Palestinian waters. At 1145 hours, two Israeli launches proceeding from within occupied Palestinian waters removed the old buoy No. 1.
19 May 2014	2100	From its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters 200 metres from shore for 40 seconds.

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 May 2014	0600	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Tyre and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 1840 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0915	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1040 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	0950	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 2300 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1615	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Alma al-Sha'b and Naqurah before leaving at 1715 hours over Naqurah.
	2055	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Hirmil and Dinniyah road before leaving at 1045 hours on 2 May 2014 over Alma al-Sha'b.
2 May 2014	0825	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Hirmil and Dinniyah road before leaving at 2205 hours over Rumaysh.
	0955	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Bint Jubayl, Alma al-Sha'b, Jazzin and Sidon before leaving at 1145 hours over Naqurah.
	1200	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun. It circled over Jazzin and Sidon before leaving at 1425 hours over Rumaysh.
	1955	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Tyre, Nabatiyah, Marj Uyun and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 0945 hours on 3 May 2014 over Naqurah.
3 May 2014	0900	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South and then circled over Hirmil and Dinniyah road before leaving at 1950 hours over Kafr Killa.
4 May 2014	0705	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1415 hours over Kafr Killa.
	0900	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1830 hours over Kafr Killa.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1000	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the Shuf, Sidon, Nabatiyah and Jazzin before leaving at 1415 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1025	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1220 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	2150	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, and over Dahr al-Baydar before leaving at 0720 hours on 5 May 2014 over Alma al-Sha'b.
	2310	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah. It circled over Batrun and Juniyah before leaving at 0725 hours on 5 May 2014 over the sea off Naqurah.
5 May 2014	2010	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Zahlah and Riyaq before leaving at 0300 hours on 6 May 2014 over Naqurah.
8 May 2014	1520	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1700 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
10 May 2014	0625	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Nabatiyah and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 1530 hours over Rumaysh.
11 May 2014	0600	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Bint Jubayl, Marj Uyun and Tyre before leaving at 2100 hours over Naqurah.
	1010	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Baalbek, Hirmil and Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 2310 hours over Naqurah.
	1400 1440	Two Israeli enemy helicopters circled over the occupied Shab'a Farms.
12 May 2014	1320	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1450 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
13 May 2014	0715	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1315 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1045	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Tyre, Naqurah, Bint Jubayl, Nabatiyah and Beirut and its suburbs, and then over Nabatiyah and Marj Uyun before leaving at 2205 hours over Rumaysh.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1610	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 2220 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
14 May 2014	0730	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 2205 hours over Rumaysh.
	1005	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the Western Bekaa, Baalbek and Riyaq before leaving at 1450 hours over Rumaysh.
	1115	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Jubayl, Kasrawan, Baalbek, Hirmil and Dinniyah road before leaving at 1750 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1740	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Nabatiyah, Tyre and Marj Uyun before leaving at 2215 hours over Naqurah.
15 May 2014	0240	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Hirmil, Dinniyah road and Baalbek before leaving at 1315 hours over Rumaysh.
	0840	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Kasrawan, Matn and Ba'abda before leaving at 1425 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1020	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1145 hours over Rumaysh.
	1315	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 0630 hours on 16 May 2014 over Rumaysh.
	1425	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Baalbek and Hirmil and then over Marj Uyun, Bint Jubayl and Tyre before leaving at 0100 hours on 16 May 2014 over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1625	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1700 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
16 May 2014	0120	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Jubb Jannin, Jazzin and the Shuf before leaving at 1710 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1030	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Marj Uyun, Nabatiyah, Tyre, Bint Jubayl, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 2000 hours over Rumaysh.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1105	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1230 hours over Kafr Killa.
17 May 2014	0750	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1635 hours over Naqurah.
18 May 2014	0925	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Hirmil, Baalbek and Riyaq before leaving at 1505 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1055	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1235 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1110	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea west of Tyre. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1145 hours over the sea west of Naqurah.
19 May 2014	0510	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 0910 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0720	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Nabatiyah, Tyre and Marj Uyun, and then over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1810 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1015	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs and then over Hirmil, Akkar, Tripoli and Dinniyah road before leaving at 1730 hours over Kafr Killa.
22 February 2014	0550	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Sidon, the Shuf, Jazzin, Nabatiyah, Bint Jubayl and Tyre before leaving at 1820 hours over Naqurah.
	0905	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1100 hours over Naqurah.
	2100	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Hirmil, Kasrawan, Batrun and Juniyah before leaving at 0300 hours on 23 May 2014 over Alma al-Sha'b.
24 May 2014	0550	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Tyre, Nabatiyah, Marj Uyun and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 1250 hours over Rumaysh.
26 May 2014	0615	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South, the Bekaa and Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1820 hours over Naqurah.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1115	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Bint Jubayl, Alma al-Sha'b, Sidon and Nabatiyah before leaving at 1500 hours over Naqurah.
	1400	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Jubb Jannin, Rashayya and Hasbayya before leaving at 1825 hours over Naqurah.
	2105	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Hirmil, Baalbek and Riyaq before leaving at 0435 hours on 27 May 2014 over Kafr Killa.
27 May 2014	0500	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the Shuf, Jazzin, Nabatiyah, Dinniyah road and Hirmil before leaving at 1855 hours over Rumaysh.
	0610	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 0805 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1000	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Marj Uyun, Bint Jubayl, Tyre and Nabatiyah before leaving at 2115 hours over Rumaysh.
	1040	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1235 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1150	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Jubb Jannin, Rashayya, Hasbayya and Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1800 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	2020	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace and fired a number of flare shells over Lebanese territorial waters.
28 May 2014	0700	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Sidon, the Shuf, Jazzin, Nabatiyah, Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1550 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1010	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1440 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1025	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Sidon. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Jubayl and Batrun before leaving at 1630 hours over Naqurah.
29 May 2014	1630	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the Western Bekaa before leaving at 1850 hours over Kafr Killa.

United Nations A/68/946–E/2014/91

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 July 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 9, 17 (c) and 18

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Macroeconomic policy questions: external debt sustainability and development

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

Economic and Social Council
2014 session
Items 5, 9 (a) and 16 of the provisional agenda*

High-level segment

Implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits: follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Economic and environmental questions

Letter dated 7 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration in support of Argentina regarding the ruling on NML Capital Ltd. vs. Republic of Argentina, adopted by the Member States of the Group of 77 and China at an ambassadorial meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 June 2014 (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 9, 17 (c) and 18, and of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council, under items 4, 8 (a) and 15 of its provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Sacha Sergio **Llorentty Solíz**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Chair of the Group of 77

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-57344 (E) 150714

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Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council

Declaration in support of Argentina regarding the ruling on NML Capital Ltd. vs. Republic of Argentina

The Group of 77 and China met at the ambassadorial level on 25 June 2014 and was briefed by Hector Timerman, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, and Axel Kicillof, Minister of Economy and Public Finance of Argentina, on New York District Court Judge Thomas Griesa's ruling on the NML vs. Argentina case.

The Group of 77 and China expressed its full solidarity and support for Argentina regarding this issue and highlighted its concerns over the serious consequences of the ruling, which go far beyond Argentina and could affect any country facing similar situations. Furthermore, the Group stressed its deep concern about this judicial decision and considered that it was not the proper instance for resolving these issues. The Group underlined that this ruling could have adverse systemic implications, given that the voluntary renegotiations of debts and debt restructurings would become more difficult if not impossible.

The Group of 77 and China further called for a process that promotes fair and balanced negotiating conditions to resolve this dispute, taking into account the interests of 100 per cent of the bondholders.

The Group of 77 and China furthermore recalled that, in the declaration adopted in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 15 June 2014 (A/68/948, annex), the Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China noted that "a new concern has emerged relating to the activities of vulture funds". They also expressed that "recent examples of the actions of vulture funds in international courts have revealed their highly speculative nature", and that "such funds pose a risk to all future debt-restructuring processes, both for developing and developed countries". They therefore "stressed the importance of not allowing vulture funds to paralyse the debt-restructuring efforts of developing countries, and that these funds should not supersede a State's right to protect its people under international law".

Finally, the Group of 77 and China reiterated the urgent need for the international community to examine options for an effective, equitable, durable, independent and development-oriented international debt resolution mechanism, and called upon all countries to promote and contribute to the discussions within the United Nations and other appropriate forums with that objective.

United Nations A/68/947–S/2014/449

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 July 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Items 14 and 118

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Fulfilling our collective responsibility: international assistance and the responsibility to protect

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report outlines the ways in which national, regional and international actors can assist States in fulfilling their responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. It responds to the decision by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/308 to continue consideration of the responsibility to protect, in the light of its endorsement by States in paragraphs 138 to 140 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It also draws on the first report of the Secretary-General, in 2009, on implementing the responsibility to protect (A/63/677), which established the three pillar framework for the responsibilities enshrined in the principle.

The present report, which focuses on pillar II, begins by recalling the nature and dynamics of the atrocity crimes outlined in the World Summit Outcome. It goes on to identify the approach and principles that should guide efforts to assist States in the fulfilment of their protection responsibilities, and the various actors that could contribute to the responsibility to assist. The core section elaborates on three main forms of pillar II support, namely, encouragement, capacity-building and protection assistance, and provides examples of good national, regional and international practice. The report concludes by identifying challenges to the implementation of pillar II of the responsibility to protect and provides concrete recommendations on how this important agenda may be advanced. It also sets out possible next steps for Member States to continue considering the responsibility to protect, given the upcoming 10-year anniversary of the 2005 World Summit.

14-57339 (E) 210714

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (see General Assembly resolution 60/1) all Heads of State and Government affirmed that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This includes a responsibility to prevent the commission of such acts (pillar I). They also declared that the international community should encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility, support the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability, and assist those which are under stress before crises and conflicts break out (pillar II). Lastly, Member States confirmed the responsibility of the international community to help to protect populations using diplomatic, humanitarian and other means, as well as their readiness to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their populations (pillar III).

2. The responsibility to protect encapsulates a powerful imperative: the international community has a collective responsibility to help to protect populations from acts that have been defined as international crimes.[1] It emerged following the failure of the international community to prevent genocide in Rwanda and Srebrenica and is one distinct element of broader, long-standing efforts to protect populations from acts that have shocked the global conscience. The responsibility to protect is a political principle that shares some common elements with the concept of the protection of civilians in armed conflict, but has a more narrow focus on protecting populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,[2] and draws on a broader range of tools and approaches for prevention and response.

3. The responsibility to protect has been reaffirmed by the Security Council in its resolutions 1674 (2006), 1894 (2009), 2117 (2013) and 2150 (2014). Resolution 2150 (2014), adopted on the twentieth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, also recalled the important role of my Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect. The Council has continued to refer to the responsibility of States to protect their populations in country-specific resolutions and, in relation to some of these situations, has authorized action to assist the State to protect its populations from atrocity crimes.[3]

4. In its resolution 63/308, the General Assembly agreed to continue its consideration of the responsibility to protect. At its most recent informal debate on the principle in September 2013, Assembly Members expressed interest in the Secretary-General's views on pillar II. The present report responds by assessing how

[1] The present report uses the term "atrocity crimes" to refer to the four acts specified in paragraph 138 of the World Summit Outcome Document. Genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity are established as crimes under international criminal law; ethnic cleansing, while not defined as a distinct crime, includes acts that will regularly amount to one of the crimes, in particular genocide and crimes against humanity.

[2] See paragraph 21 of the 2012 report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2012/376) and paragraph 16 of the 2012 report of the Secretary-General on the responsibility to protect: timely and decisive response (A/66/874).

[3] See Security Council resolutions 2085 (2012) on the situation in Mali, 1996 (2011) on the situation in South Sudan and 1975 (2011) on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

a variety of actors, working in partnership, can encourage States to fulfil their primary responsibility to protect; assist them in building capacities that will make them more resilient to the risk factors for atrocity crimes; and add to their protection capacities in situations of emerging or ongoing crisis. It builds on previous reports addressing the implementation of the responsibility to protect (A/63/677), early warning and assessment (A/64/864), the role of regional and subregional arrangements (A/65/877-S/2011/393), timely and decisive response (A/66/874-S/2012/578) and State responsibility and prevention (A/67/929-S/2013/399). The report also incorporates the views of Member States, regional and international organizations and civil society actors, which were consulted during its preparation and provided examples of international assistance that have helped States to fulfil their protection responsibilities.

5. My annual reports on the responsibility to protect reflect a deep commitment to move the principle from the realm of rhetoric into concrete action. An elaboration of pillar II is long overdue, given its central place in this critical task of implementation. The everyday reality of populations in current crises, including those in the Central African Republic, Iraq and South Sudan, also illustrates vividly why such international assistance is more important than ever. The range of acute protection challenges confronting the international community today, including those related to the rise of extremist groups, highlights the urgent need to provide earlier and more effective forms of support to States to prevent the slide into systematic violence and atrocity crimes.

6. If properly conceived and consistently executed, international assistance as part of pillar II can reinforce the efforts that States are already making to protect their populations from atrocity crimes, and reduce the likelihood of collective response by the international community under pillar III. That is why I have steadfastly maintained that the three pillars of the responsibility to protect are of equal weight, mutually reinforcing and non-sequential. In implementing these pillars, it should also be remembered that the crucial question is not whether or not the responsibility to protect "applies" in a given situation, since States have a responsibility to protect their populations everywhere and at all times, but rather how best to use the specific measures available under each pillar to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes.

II. The nature and dynamics of atrocity crimes

7. Designing appropriate forms of international assistance under pillar II requires a clear understanding of the specific nature of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and the particular form of violence that they represent. The need to identify opportunities for prevention early on has also contributed to a better understanding of how atrocity crimes develop. While events may unfold differently in each context, three main stages can be identified.

8. The first stage is characterized by the presence of one or more factors that raise the general risk of atrocity crimes. As noted in my 2013 report on State responsibility and prevention (A/67/929-S/2013/399), these can include the presence of armed conflict or other forms of instability; a record of serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including persistent patterns of discrimination; economic deprivation and related disparities; weaknesses in State structures; motives or incentives to commit atrocity crimes, including the presence

of an exclusionary ideology; the absence of mitigating factors; and the presence of actors with the capacity to engage in such crimes. Preventive action at this stage requires more structurally focused strategies designed to help to build national resilience. The principal objective is the creation of State structures and institutions that are functioning and legitimate, respect human rights and the rule of law, deliver services equitably, and can address or defuse sources of tension before they escalate.

9. The likelihood of atrocity crimes increases during the second stage, transforming a situation of general risk into one presenting more specific threats. This stage is often initiated by a crisis or political transition that triggers upheaval and exacerbates existing grievances. However, atrocity crimes may not be committed unless there is an explicit drive to target or exclude a particular group, marginalize moderate elements, and mobilize armed groups, often through the spread of propaganda. This phase may also involve more frequent and serious human rights violations.

10. The third stage, imminent risk of atrocity crimes, is marked by increased violations of the right to life and physical integrity, a rise in other human rights abuses, systematic targeting of specific groups, including political opposition, and efforts at self-protection by those being targeted. Addressing the shocks and crises typical of the second and third stages requires more targeted measures that reflect the shorter time available to prevent crimes from being committed. These measures may target either a particular group at risk or address specific challenges, such as restricting the availability of arms that could be used to commit atrocity crimes.

11. These three stages imply that assistance measures under pillar II are not necessarily restricted to early-stage prevention, but can also encompass support to States facing imminent or ongoing atrocity crimes.

III. Spirit of pillar II

Sovereign equality

12. At the 2005 World Summit, States committed to assist one another to succeed in fulfilling their responsibility to protect, not just to react if they fail. Pillar II is therefore a reminder that the responsibility to protect is intended to reinforce, not undermine, sovereignty. The principle was not designed to create a hierarchical structure in which the international community imposes demands or solutions on States. Rather, it reaffirms the fundamental principle of sovereign equality, expressed in Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations. As sovereign equals, States have both reciprocal rights and responsibilities and participate, as peers, in the creation and maintenance of international rules, norms and institutions. The responsibility to protect is meant to inspire cooperation among a variety of actors that are equally committed to protecting populations from atrocity crimes.

Collective responsibility

13. Paragraphs 138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome also articulate a collective responsibility to help to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The key conceptual move made by the principle of the responsibility to protect was to shift the discussion from the discretion or right of third parties to intervene to the responsibility that a variety of actors have, at different levels, to assist in protecting potential victims of atrocity

crimes. Collective responsibility is a demanding but more inclusive idea. Rather than simply providing support to States when they are in need, international assistance under pillar II contributes to fulfilling a collective responsibility.

Common principles of assistance

14. To exercise this collective responsibility effectively, a common set of principles should guide the efforts of national, regional and international actors to assist States under pillar II:

(a) Ensure national ownership

15. National actors are usually best placed to identify risk factors for atrocity crimes and to develop effective mitigation strategies. Experience has shown that international assistance has more impact when aligned with national priorities. In turn, national strategies must be reflective of society as a whole. Efforts to prevent or respond to atrocity crimes can succeed only if they are the product of inclusive processes that engage national and local authorities, as well as civil society, including human rights organizations, traditional leaders and women's groups.

(b) Build mutual commitment

16. The success of a State's efforts to protect its population from atrocity crimes depends on the commitment of national actors to fulfil their responsibility. Where a genuine will to build resilience is lacking at the national level, or where there is no agreement among national actors on the objectives and the approach to take, the potential contribution of outside actors will be limited. At the same time, international partners should seek to provide coherent and coordinated assistance that reinforces national efforts, respects inclusive national decision-making processes and commits to sustained support that recognizes the long-term nature of building resilience to atrocity crimes.

(c) Do no harm

17. Experience has shown that poorly designed international assistance can inadvertently create or exacerbate social cleavages, thereby contributing to the development of atrocity crimes. International support or technical advice that contributes to discrimination and disparities or causes groups to compete over sources of revenue is particularly damaging. International partners should therefore make all possible effort to "do no harm" by incorporating atrocity crime prevention into the assessment, planning and monitoring processes that guide their assistance.

(d) Prioritize prevention

18. Paragraph 139 of the World Summit Outcome expresses the commitment of the international community to assist States under stress before crises and conflict break out. Acting early not only increases the likelihood of being able to address latent risks before they escalate, but is also more cost-effective. Although this is widely recognized, the international community continues to systematically underinvest in prevention and to react only at the brink of crises.

(e) Retain flexibility

19. The risk of atrocity crimes varies according to the context and changes over time. International assistance must therefore be designed both to respond to a specific situation and to adapt to evolving needs, in particular with respect to States under stress. Flexibility entails a willingness to adjust programming regularly to achieve desired outcomes and to review the effectiveness of assistance while it is being provided.

Partnerships

20. Many actors have a role to play in implementing pillar II. Those with the proximity, trust, knowledge, capacity or legitimacy to best provide assistance may take the lead in certain situations. This does not absolve other actors, however, of their continuing responsibility to support policies that are directed at atrocity crime prevention and response. The most effective forms of international assistance are likely to involve partnerships among a range of actors, as discussed in paragraphs 21 to 27 below.

21. Given its legitimacy and global character, the United Nations is a central part of the architecture for assisting States under pillar II. The General Assembly has a unique ability to convene States, elaborate international norms and principles that facilitate the protection of populations, and galvanize resources to support States to fulfil their commitments. The Human Rights Council, human rights treaty bodies and special procedures mandate-holders encourage and make recommendations to States to meet their pillar I responsibility to protect, and help to identify potential risks of atrocity crimes through their ongoing monitoring role. The Security Council authorizes assistance to States through peacekeeping operations and special political missions, but also addresses related thematic agendas, such as sexual and gender-related violence in armed conflict. The Peacebuilding Commission has a mandate to provide sustained support for peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict, including, in some cases, those that have suffered from atrocity crimes. Particular United Nations programmes, funds, specialized agencies, country teams and independent human rights mechanisms also have essential roles to play under pillar II, by facilitating access to expertise and ensuring that capacity-building efforts enhance national resilience to atrocity crimes.

22. Several other international organizations provide assistance that directly and indirectly helps States to fulfil their responsibility to protect. The World Bank, for example, has expanded its support to States that have suffered from conflict and other forms of violence, including through its Statebuilding and Peacebuilding Fund. The International Criminal Court and the principle of positive complementarity established by the Rome Statute and other international criminal accountability mechanisms also aim to assist States in protecting their populations by sharing information, training national prosecutors and investigators and combating the impunity that facilitates atrocity crimes.

23. States that are closer to events often have access to more detailed information, may have a more nuanced understanding of the history and culture of a State, are likely to be more directly affected by the consequences of atrocity crimes, and may be critical to the effective delivery of international assistance. Neighbouring States can lead in identifying capacity gaps and serving as conduits for the flow of information, ideas and strategies between national and international actors.

However, a legacy of tension or the presence of political or economic interests may, in some cases, limit the positive role of neighbouring States or contribute to greater instability. In some instances, more distant actors may have a broader or more balanced perspective and be better placed to assist.

24. As noted in my 2011 report on the role of regional and subregional arrangements (A/65/877-S/2011/393), fostering more extensive and effective collaboration between regional and global bodies is central to implementing the responsibility to protect. Cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to support peace processes and political dialogue in the Sudan and South Sudan and the joint efforts of the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union to foster peace in the Sahel region provide powerful examples of how regional organizations can contribute under pillar II. These joint approaches are more likely to build trust across borders, promote both security and development, address transnational threats to populations and facilitate the exchange of civilian expertise. Other regional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the European Union and the Organization of American States (OAS), also have key economic and political instruments that can be used to assist local and national authorities, as well as civil society, in responding to the risk of conflict or instability.

25. The increasing number of global and regional networks of States dedicated to preventing atrocity crimes opens new avenues for partnership and mutual assistance. The work of the Global Network of Responsibility to Protect Focal Points, Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes and the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention demonstrates how shared objectives and lessons learned from past experience may help States to identify effective protection strategies.

26. Private sector actors can contribute to building resilience by strengthening local economies and employing a workforce inclusive of all social groups. In some cases, private sector expertise can be mobilized through public-private partnerships to enhance the impact of national measures aimed at atrocity prevention. On the other hand, experience shows that businesses can both indirectly contribute to the commission of atrocity crimes through their operations and business practices, particularly in extractive industries, and directly enable those engaged in such acts through their products and services. Private sector actors can reduce this risk by complying with the 2011 United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and ensuring that their commercial activities do not exacerbate social cleavages. They could also consider developing risk management tools that explicitly incorporate atrocity crime risks.

27. Civil society plays a vital role in providing and advocating for international assistance under pillar II. Local civil society actors have knowledge of and access to early warning information that many other actors do not and can hold national authorities accountable. International civil society organizations can encourage the development of a vibrant national civil society, that includes a prominent role for women and young people, and support the development of national and community-based approaches to prevention. These efforts complement more formal types of international assistance aimed at strengthening national resilience.

IV. Forms of assistance

28. Development assistance that enhances equality and social justice can have a positive impact in helping States to meet their protection responsibilities. However, while traditional development cooperation has a central role to play, assistance to States in the context of the responsibility to protect will also involve a wider range of economic, political, humanitarian and, in certain cases, military tools. My 2009 report on implementing the responsibility to protect (A/63/677) identified three broad categories of assistance under pillar II:

- Encouraging States to meet their responsibility to protect by disseminating relevant legal standards and normative commitments, reminding States of the importance of adherence and engaging in dialogue on ways to fulfil their responsibility
- Building national capacities to prevent atrocity crimes through training, institution-building and active sharing of best practices
- Assisting States to protect in situations of emerging or ongoing crisis through the provision of additional capacity or expertise.

A. Encouragement

29. Encouragement can take two forms. First, international actors can encourage States to fulfil their pillar I responsibilities through awareness-raising and norm dissemination. Second, international actors can use confidential or public dialogue to remind States under stress of the importance of meeting their responsibility to protect and addressing signs of impending crisis.

Encouragement to meet pillar I responsibilities

30. The first type of encouragement is part of broader efforts to undertake structural atrocity prevention and involves the dissemination of human rights and humanitarian standards and norms, as well as education of national authorities and the wider public on the nature and dynamics of atrocity crimes. The discourse and practices developed around the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and core international human rights instruments serve to reinforce State adherence to legal norms prohibiting atrocity crimes. All State parties to such legal instruments have an obligation to ensure their implementation.

31. Peer review and assessment mechanisms provide a particularly powerful form of encouragement and serve as a reminder that no society is immune to the risks of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Human Rights Council sessions and the universal periodic review process provide opportunities to raise concerns about human rights violations that could constitute risk factors for atrocity crimes and for conveying recommendations for corrective action. The public nature of these processes establish particular incentives for States to address their pillar I responsibilities. In addition, the engagement of both special procedures mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council and independent experts of the human rights treaty bodies provide a vital mechanism for engaging in dialogue with States on human rights concerns and atrocity crime risks.

32. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) also encourages States to meet their protection responsibilities, including by supporting the implementation of human rights standards, the development of national human rights institutions and support for commissions of inquiry into allegations of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that could constitute atrocity crimes. In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, OHCHR provided the commission of inquiry established by the Human Rights Council with information to assist its investigation into allegations of serious violations of human rights following the presidential election of November 2010. It also provided technical support to national judicial institutions, which helped to facilitate the first two national trials for crimes committed during the country's post-electoral crisis.

33. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator has a specific mandate to advocate, both publicly and privately, for populations at risk and in need of protection and assistance, including with the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also seeks to strengthen the commitments of Member States to the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

34. Regional actors and initiatives are particularly well-placed to provide focused encouragement. Examples include the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Council of Europe and in particular its European Court of Human Rights, the African Peer Review Mechanism, the Regional Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the League of Arab States. I encourage States to invest in strengthening existing regional mechanisms so that they incorporate a focus on preventing atrocity crimes and to consider creating them in regions or subregions where peer-to-peer discussion on the prevention of atrocity crimes is lacking.

35. All forms of encouragement should focus particular attention on the protection of the most vulnerable populations. Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, along with subsequent resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013) and the efforts of my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, highlight the importance of encouragement aimed at upholding prohibitions related to conflict-related sexual violence. Similarly, the work of my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) encourages States to implement guidelines for child protection and assist in the development of national action plans. In both domains, civil society organizations have been active in disseminating global standards and encouraging the creation of national strategies to address sexual and gender-based violence and promote child protection.

Dialogue and preventive diplomacy

36. The second type of encouragement applies in particular situations of concern and involves the use of preventive diplomacy to reduce the vulnerability of populations to atrocity crimes. Whereas preventive diplomacy has traditionally sought to resolve disputes before they escalate, it can be used by actors in more targeted ways under pillar II. Confidential dialogue or various forms of public exchange can both remind national actors in States under stress of their

responsibility to protect their population and offer advice on courses of action that can mitigate the risks of atrocity crimes.

37. Some regions have institutionalized these forms of preventive diplomacy. For example, the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) conducts field missions and undertakes early warning, operating on the basis of quiet diplomacy. Similarly, the Panel of the Wise of the African Union has a mandate to use its good offices to encourage parties to a dispute to resolve their differences non-violently. In Latin America, leaders have united to collectively support neighbours under stress through the Union of South American Nations. In 2008, the Union created a commission to support dialogue in the Plurinational State of Bolivia following a period of violent political unrest. These and similar bodies can be used to reiterate the importance of respecting international human rights and humanitarian law and signal the potential costs of non-compliance.

38. The United Nations, led by the Department of Political Affairs, also uses preventive diplomacy to defuse tensions and work towards non-violent solutions, and can stress the importance of States fulfilling their responsibilities to protect populations from atrocity crimes. Indeed, I have repeatedly encouraged States to do so, both publicly and privately, through the use of my good offices or, in some cases, through the appointment of special envoys. I intend to continue to build political will to act by drawing international attention to ongoing or impending situations of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and my Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect also respond to situations of concern by offering States both public and private encouragement.

B. Capacity-building

39. Atrocity crime prevention begins at the national and local levels, but can be effective only if States have the structures, means and knowledge necessary to foster resilience. International assistance can have a substantial impact by helping to build two sets of capacities. The first set is generally aimed at creating effective, legitimate and inclusive governance, while the second set is specifically directed at creating "inhibitors" to the commission of atrocity crimes. The term "inhibitor" refers to particular capacities, institutions and actors that help to prevent escalation from risk to imminent crisis.

40. In undertaking this form of international assistance, actors need to consider not only what capacities they seek to build, but also how they can best be built. Experience suggests that capacity-building should begin with a thorough needs assessment, so that international actors take account of existing structures, and involve extensive consultation with national and local actors. Such efforts must also entail more than the establishment of formal institutions. The culture and spirit that pervade those institutions are equally important, since they establish shared norms and principles among those who occupy positions of authority. In addition, international capacity-building assistance should couple the provision of technical advice on different aspects of governance with concrete support and skills development for those who can serve as "watchdogs" and hold authorities to account. Finally, capacity-building efforts under pillar II should include mechanisms

to measure their impact, so that local support for international assistance is continually maintained.

Effective, legitimate and inclusive governance

41. A number of regional and international actors are engaged in building national capacities for effective, legitimate and inclusive governance. While the priorities depend on the context, the central components most often entail assistance to develop or strengthen participatory and accountable political institutions, respect for the rule of law and equal access to justice, and mechanisms for the fair and transparent management of economic resources and assets. These bedrocks of good governance can remove core sources of grievance and minimize the risks of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. To further the aims of atrocity prevention, international assistance to build these capacities should focus particular attention on addressing horizontal inequality in society, which frequently results from the systematic exclusion of particular groups from civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

42. Assisting national authorities to promote and protect the rights of cultural, ethnic, national, linguistic and religious minorities is one important element of this approach. However, recent crises, which demonstrate an alarming rise in religious intolerance, discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation, and restrictions in public freedoms, suggest that international assistance needs to go a step further, in order to promote the creation of truly integrated institutions. Integrated institutions are representative of society as a whole, foster regular inter-communal dialogue and problem-solving and create a shared stake in a country's future. The principles and advice contained in the Ljubljana Guidelines on the Integration of Diverse Societies, developed by the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities, offer a useful resource for this kind of capacity-building.

Specific inhibitors of atrocity crimes

43. In addition to these broader preventive efforts, experience with societies that have witnessed genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing suggests that international assistance should focus on building specific inhibitors that enable States to address the early signs of crisis that could lead to the commission of atrocity crimes. These inhibitors contribute to the development of effective, legitimate and inclusive national institutions, but also have a more direct and targeted impact on mitigating atrocity crime risks. The following seven capacities are particularly important:

(a) Professional and accountable security sector

44. International actors, through the provision of materials, training and advice, can assist in building a security sector capable of responding to threats posed by armed non-State actors that may have the motive and means to commit atrocity crimes. However, capacity-building must be more broadly conceived, for two reasons. First, a State's security forces may themselves collude or actively engage in the commission of such crimes. Those providing assistance should therefore insist on safeguards against potential abuse, including robust civilian oversight, and retain the right to cease security sector cooperation if the objective of atrocity crime prevention is compromised.

45. Second, material capacity should be complemented by assistance to promote professionalism, respect for international human rights and humanitarian law and accountability, so that the armed forces, law enforcement and intelligence services engender the trust of the population. These objectives guide the Organization's overall approach to security sector reform, both through the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces and through programmes to build specific capacities. In Colombia, for example, the capacity-building efforts of OHCHR led to a new legal framework on the functioning of the intelligence services and the establishment of a parliamentary intelligence oversight committee. The International Security Sector Advisory Team, established to support regional and international actors engaged in security sector reform, also provides specific advice on ways to ensure that security sector personnel reflect the diversity of the population, act impartially and operate within clearly established mechanisms for detecting and sanctioning wrongful behaviour. Going forward, those engaged in security sector assistance, including within the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, could build specific modules on the nature and dynamics of atrocity crimes into their training programmes.

(b) Impartial institutions for overseeing political transitions

46. Political transitions, particularly elections, can sometimes trigger violence that could lead to atrocity crimes. If sectors of the population perceive an election to lack fairness, inclusiveness or transparency, there is a greater likelihood that they will resort to violence or that conflict entrepreneurs with an incentive to encourage violence may be able to mobilize groups for their own ends. An important inhibitor to these negative dynamics is an impartial and competent electoral commission that can stand apart from narrow economic and political interests, ensure the integrity of an election and announce the results in a timely and impartial fashion.

47. The assessment of the causes of alleged crimes committed in Kenya following the December 2007 election, including crimes against humanity, found that in addition to underlying grievances, mistrust in the electoral institutions contributed to the inter-ethnic violence that gripped the country and delays in announcing results fuelled suspicion of electoral fraud. A number of reforms were undertaken to improve public confidence and reduce the risk of atrocity crimes during the 2013 elections, including the technical and financial support provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and donor States to Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

(c) Independent judicial and human rights institutions

48. An impartial and independent judiciary offers two particular ways of mitigating the risk of atrocity crimes. First, it is a mechanism for redressing grievances that constitutes an alternative to the violent or extralegal strategies that might otherwise trigger atrocity crimes. Second, it provides the means of bringing those who plan, incite or commit atrocity crimes to justice, thereby assisting implementation of the International Criminal Court's core principle of complementarity.

49. Institutions empowered to protect human rights, including national human rights institutions and ombudsman's offices, can also act as inhibitors to atrocity crimes. These independent institutions, which should respect the 1993 Paris Principles adopted by the General Assembly, not only respond to individual

complaints but can also identify and make public which kinds of statements constitute incitement to violence, based on ethnic or religious hatred.

50. Efforts to strengthen these rule-of-law-related institutions are often most effective when they avoid a "one size fits all" approach and seek to empower local and national actors. A bottom-up strategy that builds on the formal and informal justice systems that already exist is more likely to enjoy widespread legitimacy and serve as a foundation for subsequent reforms. This approach has been employed in Sierra Leone, for example, where the historical role of Paramount Chiefs in dispute resolution has been recognized through their participation in Parliament and local governance institutions.

(d) Capacity to assess risk and mobilize early response

51. National capacity to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes can be enhanced by regular assessments of risk factors, evidence of mobilization and the vulnerability of different population groups. Such assessments can also be used to shape other kinds of international assistance, such as development cooperation, so that policies pursued in one domain will not have an adverse effect on another.

52. While each State will develop a risk assessment framework appropriate to its own context, the guidance provided by civil society organizations dedicated to preventing atrocity crimes or the framework of analysis developed by my Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect,[4] can help to identify atrocity risks and vulnerabilities in a State's capacity to address them. Regional organizations that have advanced early warning mechanisms, such as the European Union, the African Union, IGAD and ECOWAS, can also advise States on risk factors relevant to their situation. In some cases, risk assessments can be implemented jointly or in cooperation with development partners. As part of the framework of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, for example, the European Union and other international partners have supported Somalia in the development of a fragility self-assessment. Information alone is not enough, however. Relevant facts and analysis must be provided in a timely and accessible way to policymakers in a position to act.

(e) Local capacity to resolve conflicts

53. Capacity-building assistance should also concentrate on informal mechanisms, both local and national, that can foster dialogue and reconciliation and mediate on specific matters. With the assistance of UNDP, for example, Guyana has created an Ethnic Relations Committee, which has helped to build governmental and civil society capacity to respond effectively to events that could trigger atrocity crimes. The sources of tension will vary, ranging from disputes over land and other resources, religion and ethnicity to political succession, but by promoting indigenous solutions, these mechanisms can build a culture of peaceful dispute resolution and reduce the need for international mediation.

54. The role of traditional and religious leaders in defusing social tensions may be especially relevant at a local level, and some promising initiatives have been designed to reinforce their efforts. The Mediation Support Unit of the Department of

[4] The analysis framework is available in the official languages of the United Nations from http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/.

Political Affairs, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Finn Church Aid, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the non-governmental organization Religions for Peace have established the Network of Traditional and Religious Peacemakers as a means of enhancing the positive contribution such processes can make to resolving inter-communal tensions.

(f) Media capacity to counteract prejudice and hate speech

55. Hate speech that constitutes incitement to violence has often encouraged perpetrators to commit atrocity crimes. Countering these destructive messages, which can make atrocity crimes appear desirable or permissible, is an important inhibitor to their commission. As tools for receiving and transmitting information, the media can either provide a powerful pathway for propaganda, negative stereotypes and incitement or serve as a key tool for contesting their arguments or preventing their dissemination.

56. International actors can support the positive role of media by assisting the development of research and investigative capacity of journalists, legislation regarding incitement, and codes of conduct and ethical standards for journalists that promote truth telling and impartial reporting. The best way to defeat incitement is for respected local figures and organizations to contest it in the print media, on radio and television, on the Internet and social media, and in face-to-face communication. In Côte d'Ivoire, where hate speech has contributed to communal violence, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) has used its broadcasting capacity to promote a peaceful environment and has been tasked by the Security Council to monitor and report on incitement to hatred, violence or intolerance.

(g) Capacity for effective and legitimate transitional justice

57. Given that a major risk factor for atrocity crimes is the past commission of such acts and a record of impunity, effective and legitimate transitional justice mechanisms, which look forward as well as backward, should be a key focus for capacity-building under pillar II. International partners, often working in close collaboration with the United Nations, have provided critical support to hybrid transitional justice efforts, including the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the War Crimes Chamber of the Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Beyond effective judicial remedies for the crimes committed, international actors can help to finance outstanding property claims, establish durable solutions for the displaced, and facilitate the restoration of citizenship for victims. The assistance given by the International Criminal Court to victims of the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda is a good example of this broader approach. In addition, given the central role of education in fostering social cohesion and a sense of individual responsibility, international assistance in post-conflict contexts could pay particular attention to educational reforms that promote the value of diversity and instruction on the causes and consequences of atrocity crimes.

58. Transnational justice efforts directed at addressing sexual and gender-based crimes is a particular priority. As indicated in my 2014 report on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2014/181), the lack of sufficient national capacity and expertise to investigate and prosecute such crimes remains a serious obstacle to accountability. International and regional actors have sought to address these gaps in a variety of countries. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example,

representatives from the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, working with UNDP, have provided support to investigation and prosecutions by military magistrates and military mobile courts, including through the prosecution support cells designed and supported by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Beyond these legal accountability mechanisms, Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) called upon States, with support from the international community, to provide victims of sexual violence with better access to legal assistance, health care and social and economic reintegration services and to address structural factors that contribute to violence against women and girls.

C. Assisting States to protect their populations

59. In addition to capacity-building assistance, States under stress or facing an impending crisis may request temporary international help, either to deny those with the motivation to commit atrocity crimes the means of doing so or to boost their existing protection capacities.

Denying the means to commit atrocities

60. International and regional actors should cooperate to stem the flow of small arms and light weapons, illicit financing and other forms of illegal trafficking, especially by strengthening cross-border customs cooperation and information-sharing networks. Efforts to deny perpetrators the means to commit atrocity crimes are particularly important when launched at an early stage. The Arms Trade Treaty is a significant step forward in this respect and reinforces the obligation of States not to knowingly provide arms that could be used for atrocity crimes. In addition, Security Council resolution 2117 (2013), which explicitly recognized that the misuse of small arms and light weapons has resulted in grave crimes, emphasized the need to actively assist States in addressing the destructive accumulation and spread of such weapons, including in countries subject to Security Council-mandated arms embargoes, through the help of United Nations peacekeeping forces. In some cases, international companies operating in a State under stress can also assist in protecting the population by ensuring that their products, services or technologies are not directly or indirectly contributing to systematic violence or serious human rights violations.

Civilian assistance

61. Neighbours, regional and international organizations and civil society can also respond to State requests for civilian resources to strengthen their ability to protect vulnerable populations. Enhancing the international community's ability to draw on and deploy specialized civilian capacity in a timely manner would particularly help States under stress. Assistance in the following five areas is likely to have the greatest impact:

(a) Dispute resolution expertise

62. International actors can provide advice and expertise to support local mediation and dispute resolution efforts. The Mediation Support Unit in the Department of Political Affairs makes technical expertise available through the deployment of its standby team and roster of mediation experts and has developed

United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation. Member States have also engaged in both national and regional initiatives to support local mediation efforts, such as the Group of Friends of Mediation led by Finland and Turkey and the Mediation and Facilitation Unit recently established by ECOWAS.

(b) Human rights monitoring

63. Assistance to expand national and local capacity to monitor and report human rights abuses is especially important in situations where there is a risk of atrocity crimes. OHCHR field offices, human rights components of peacekeeping operations and some special political missions of the United Nations often have a mandate to fulfil this role. In cases such as Afghanistan, Colombia, Guinea, Iraq, Mali and South Sudan, United Nations human rights monitors can identify vulnerable populations, provide early warning, engage with national authorities to address violations and risks, or even protect through their presence, by deterring human rights violations that may amount to atrocity crimes. Regional organizations, including the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union and OSCE, also deploy human rights experts, either through their own missions or through contributions to United Nations authorized peacekeeping missions. Given the important role they play, States and intergovernmental organizations could invest more in recruitment, training and deployment of human rights experts, including under the United Nations framework.

(c) Law enforcement and criminal investigation

64. The temporary deployment of senior police officers can often help national actors to meet the multifaceted challenges of law enforcement during periods of stress. The police components of United Nations peacekeeping operations have made significant contributions, including in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kosovo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. This need for assistance also extends throughout the justice sector. Where the capacity to investigate and prosecute atrocity crimes is limited, international assistance may be the only means of determining facts, preserving due process and holding perpetrators to account.

(d) Protection of refugees and the internally displaced

65. In situations of crisis, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), sometimes working in collaboration with non-governmental organizations such as the Norwegian Refugee Council, can offer concrete forms of protection by supporting requests for asylum or protecting refugees in safe facilities. UNHCR staff can serve not only to prevent the commission of atrocity crimes or their escalation, but can also provide crucial information about refugees and internally displaced persons that can be used to enhance the protection capacity of the State and other regional or international actors.

(e) Protection of civilians in humanitarian emergencies

66. Both at the field and global levels, humanitarian actors undertake coordination and protection efforts under the framework of the humanitarian protection clusters. In humanitarian emergencies, these clusters identify, analyse and actively respond to the protection needs of affected populations. This assistance not only enhances

national efforts to protect populations at risk, but also contributes to mitigating conditions conducive to the commission of atrocity crimes.

Peacekeeping and stabilization assistance

67. States may in some cases seek assistance from regional or international military forces to protect civilians subject to or at risk of atrocity crimes. For example, the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, established in 2003 at the request of the Government of the Solomon Islands and with the full participation of the Pacific Islands Forum, provided comprehensive military, civilian and police support to national authorities to help to protect the population by disarming military and criminal groups, establishing the rule of law, and holding perpetrators accountable through criminal justice mechanisms. In addition, the protection of civilians is now regularly included in Security Council mandates for peacekeeping missions and remains at the heart of efforts in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, the Sudan and elsewhere, where atrocity crimes have either been committed or where there is a risk that such crimes continue to be committed. In some cases, such as Security Council resolution 1996 (2011) establishing the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), peacekeepers were explicitly mandated to support national authorities in implementing their responsibility to protect. In other cases, such as MONUSCO, missions have created innovative and flexible measures to provide security in areas where civilians are under imminent threat, such as through the use of quick reaction forces, temporary deployments of military contingents, and standing and mobile patrols.

68. Much has been learned about civilian protection in volatile situations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has created training modules to enhance peacekeepers' understanding of their role in protecting civilians and is working, through the use of mobile training teams, to ensure that peacekeepers internalize this guidance before deployment. However, this alone is not enough; training requires a stronger commitment on both sides. It is essential for troop- and police-contributing countries to proactively ensure that their personnel are trained in the specifics of such mandates and understand the implications involved in their implementation.

69. Beyond training, stronger coordination between human rights monitors and peacekeeping forces is essential to ensure that assessments of risk to different population groups are built systematically into peacekeeping operation strategies and tactics. As suggested in my 2013 report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2013/689), improved tracking of civilian casualties in the field and the establishment of a common United Nations system to record civilian casualties would facilitate these efforts. In addition, greater donor support for women protection advisers could increase the protection capacity of national, regional and international military personnel in situations where conflict parties are suspected of committing rape and other forms of sexual violence.

V. Challenges and recommendations

70. The three main forms of international action under pillar II, namely, encouragement, capacity-building and protection assistance, can support States to succeed in meeting their pillar I responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and avoid more

controversial measures under pillar III. Yet, fulfilling our collective responsibility to assist States will require a number of actors to do things differently and to embed knowledge of atrocity crimes and their dynamics more consciously into core operations.

71. The United Nations has already taken a concrete step in this direction. The Rights Up Front Action Plan, which I initiated in response to the Organization's failures during the final stages of the conflict in Sri Lanka, calls for a system-wide effort to prevent and respond to the risk of or ongoing serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including those that could lead to atrocity crimes. Rights Up Front, using the breadth of United Nations mandates, ensures that United Nations entities recognize a collective responsibility to strengthen the link between early warning and early action, and brings human rights protection to the centre of the work of the Organization. Other actors, including at the regional and national levels, are also making significant progress by developing explicit strategies for atrocity prevention and response. For example, the European Union, in cooperation with other regional organizations and civil society, has significantly strengthened its early warning and conflict analysis capacity in order to better target the assistance it provides. However, while these positive initiatives are welcome, implementing pillar II will require overcoming a set of challenges.

Challenges

72. First, the multifaceted agenda under pillar II can appear daunting. There is no easy way to simplify the tasks or the sustained commitment involved in helping States to meet their responsibility to protect. Nevertheless, lessons have been learned about the most effective forms of international assistance. The objectives of pillar II can be met both by using existing resources in smarter ways and by designing strategies that prioritize the specific inhibitors for atrocity crimes.

73. Second, there is still too little will to operationalize prevention. This is manifest most clearly in the reluctance of States to place country situations on the agenda of regional or international organizations before they reach a crisis point. It is also reflected in the resource allocations of many Member States, which still prioritize crisis response, and in the concern of some States about subjecting themselves to peer review.

74. Part of the solution to the challenge of prevention lies within the World Summit Outcome itself, in which States committed themselves to assisting those which are under stress before crises and conflicts break out. The implementation of the responsibility to protect should focus on giving greater meaning and specificity to this pledge. Preventive efforts would be enhanced by investing in methodologies to analyse prevention outcomes, which are notoriously hard to prove, and by securing agreement among States on what constitutes a State "under stress".

75. Third, the implementation of the responsibility to protect coincides with a climate of fiscal restraint in many countries. However, the current resource constraints also offer an opportunity to fundamentally re-examine the allocation of resources and revise existing frameworks. Pillar II assistance is also a wise and long-term investment, given the much greater cost of acting once a crisis occurs and the social and economic devastation facing countries that experience atrocity crimes. The forms of international assistance outlined in the present report can help to focus efforts and encourage a division of labour.

76. Lastly, pillar II emphasizes assistance to States. This is particularly relevant in cases where a non-State actor is preying upon the civilian population. However, when a Government actively exploits State structures to commit atrocity crimes, strengthening national institutions becomes untenable. Even in such situations, however, international actors can continue to encourage the State to fulfil its protection responsibilities and offer assistance. The 2014 report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/HRC/25/63) calls upon States and the Special Rapporteur to continue their engagement efforts with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in what remains one of the most challenging environments for implementing the responsibility to protect. International actors can also address State-driven mobilization for atrocities by helping civil society groups to develop the political and organizational skills to oppose the proponents of atrocity crimes, keeping international attention focused on the threat to populations, and offering to assist with efforts to punish or isolate perpetrators. As Secretary-General, I have a particular responsibility in such situations to act as a spokesperson for those who are vulnerable and threatened.

Recommendations

77. Successful implementation of the pillar II agenda necessitates coordinated action from those identified in the present report, in order to avoid overburdening national actors or fragmenting international assistance. A key precondition for coordination is a shared understanding of the core priorities: intensifying efforts to encourage States to meet their responsibility to protect; investing in capacity-building programmes that address horizontal inequalities and buttress specific inhibitors of atrocity crimes; and deploying additional capacity to States under stress to boost their ability to protect populations. More specifically, I call upon Member States to:

- Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect, including the peer-review processes of the Human Rights Council and relevant regional organizations
- Invest in tools to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect in situations of emerging or ongoing crisis, such as good offices and preventive diplomacy
- Improve existing forms of national, regional and international assistance by incorporating atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and expanding existing guidance to include policy options for atrocity crime situations
- Focus existing capacity-building efforts on eliminating horizontal inequalities and design or strengthen capacity-building programmes aimed at the seven inhibitors of atrocity crimes
- Enhance the availability and expertise of specialized civilian resources and expand training programmes for peacekeeping, security and law enforcement personnel in atrocity crime risk factors and dynamics
- Ensure that international assistance under pillar II is coordinated and coherent, including by improving the exchange of information on priorities and programmes aimed at mitigating atrocity crime risks

- Support the early warning and capacity-building efforts of the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect and invest in the ability of the United Nations to recruit, train and deploy human rights experts
- Support efforts to better monitor and evaluate the impact of preventive actions
- Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention.

VI. Renewed commitment to protection

78. In addition to taking these practical steps to enhance international assistance under pillar II, the upcoming year offers an opportunity for States to renew and further the commitment made at the World Summit to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This task could not be more urgent, given the continued subjection of populations to atrocity crimes despite the pledge of "never again". The time has come for a stronger global partnership to implement our collective responsibility to protect, inspired by the common principles outlined in the present report.

79. The consensus that has developed since 2005 on many elements of the responsibility to protect can serve as a basis for moving forward. First and foremost, States have agreed that the scope of the responsibility to protect is "narrow but deep": narrow because it is restricted to the protection of populations from atrocity crimes, but deep given the array of measures required for its implementation. Second, States have reiterated that the primary responsibility to protect lies with national authorities and that no society is immune to the risk of atrocity crimes. At the same time, States have acknowledged that the three pillars of the responsibility to protect support one another and that none would be effective standing alone. Third, States consistently declare that prevention is the most important aspect of the responsibility to protect, given the inherent limitations of attempting to address a crisis that is already under way. They also recognize, however, that it is not always possible to draw a clear line between prevention and response. Lastly, States insist that the international community's implementation of its responsibility to protect must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other established principles of international law. They also stress that timely and decisive response, under pillar III, should emphasize diplomatic, political and humanitarian measures, leaving military force a matter of last resort.

80. As the tenth anniversary of the World Summit, 2015 is an opportune moment for the General Assembly to build on this consensus and take stock of efforts to implement the responsibility to protect. As part of this process, Member States may wish to consider the inclusion of the responsibility to protect on the formal agenda of the General Assembly. Such an assessment could offer the chance for deeper consideration of the impact of the responsibility to protect to date, challenges related to each of the three pillars, and gaps in the protection capacities of national, regional and international actors. I encourage Member States to seize this opportunity to craft an ambitious vision for the next decade of the responsibility to protect: a principle that has become a core part of the world's armour for protecting vulnerable populations from the most serious international crimes and violations.

United Nations A/68/948*

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 July 2014

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 35, 36, 40, 44, 55, 60, 61, 63, 66, 67, 68, 69, 76, 118, 122, 123, 124, 125, 132 and 139

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* Reissued for technical reasons on 16 July 2014.

14-55206* (E) 160714

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Letter dated 7 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration entitled "For a new world order for living well", adopted at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 14 and 15 June 2014 for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 35, 36, 40, 44, 55, 60, 61, 63, 66, 67, 68, 69, 76, 118, 122, 123, 124, 125, 132 and 139.

(*Signed*) Sacha Sergio **Llorentty Soliz**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations
Chair of the Group of 77

Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77

For a new world order for living well

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, 14 and 15 June 2014

Part I: Overall context

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Group of 77 and China, have gathered in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group.

2. We commemorate the formation of the Group of 77 on 15 June 1964 and recall the ideals and principles contained in the historic Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries, signed at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held in Geneva.

3. We recall that the first ever statement of the Group of 77 pledged to promote equality in the international economic and social order and promote the interests of the developing world, declared their unity under a common interest and defined the Group as "an instrument for enlarging the area of cooperative endeavour in the international field and for securing mutually beneficent relationships with the rest of the world".

4. We also recall the first Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held in Algiers from 10 to 25 October 1964, at which the Group adopted the Charter of Algiers, which established the principles of unity, complementarity, cooperation and solidarity of the developing countries and their determination to strive for economic and social development, individually or collectively.

5. We highlight that the Group of 77 has provided the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective social and economic interests and enhanced their joint negotiating capacity within the United Nations system, and note with satisfaction that the Group has established a permanent secretariat at United Nations Headquarters in New York and chapters in Geneva, Nairobi, Paris, Rome, Vienna and the Group of 24 in Washington, D.C., and that its membership now stands at 133 member States.

6. We also recall the successful holding of the first South Summit of the Group of 77 and China in Havana in April 2000 and the second South Summit in Doha in June 2005, at which the status of the Group of 77 and China was elevated to the level of Heads of State and Government and at which important declarations and plans of action were adopted that have guided our Group and constitute the fundamental basis for the construction of a new world order and an agenda owned by the countries of the South for the establishment of a more just, democratic and equal system that benefits our peoples.

7. We pledge to continue the tradition of our countries on building national development and uniting at the international level, towards the establishment of a just international order in the world economy that supports developing countries achieve our objectives of sustained economic growth, full employment, social equity, provision of basic goods and services to our people, protection of the environment and living in harmony with nature.

8. We are proud of the legacy and great achievements of the Group of 77 and China in defending and promoting the interest of the developing countries over the past 50 years, which have contributed gradually to greater strength and influence on economic, social and environmental issues. We pledge to build on this foundation and continue making progress towards a world order that is just, equitable, stable and peaceful. Major landmarks in this regard have been the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order in 1974, the Declaration on the Right to Development in 1986 and several other historic declarations that recognize and address the needs and interests of developing countries and constitute an utmost priority.

9. We believe in the peaceful settlement of conflicts through dialogue.

10. We also note that, despite five decades of achievements, there are still serious shortfalls in fulfilling our Group's objectives, and that our countries individually and collectively now face ongoing and emerging challenges, including the slowdown of the global economy and its effects on our countries and the lack of adequate systemic action and accountability to address the causes and effects of the global financial and economic crises, thus creating the risk of continuing with the pattern of crisis cycles.

11. We also note the gaps in many of our countries in meeting the needs of employment, food, water, health care, education, housing, physical infrastructure and energy of our people, as well as the looming environmental crisis, including the negative impacts of climate change in developing countries, the increasing shortage of drinking water and the loss of biodiversity.

12. We stress that imbalances in the global economy and the inequitable structures and outcomes in the trading, financial, monetary and technological systems led to the establishment of our Group. Nevertheless, these imbalances still prevail today in some ways with even more adverse effects on developing countries. Therefore, we pledge to continue and intensify our efforts to strive for a fair, just and equitable international order oriented towards the fulfilment of the development needs of developing countries.

13. We emphasize that the rationale for the establishment of our Group 50 years ago remains actual and valid, and indeed more valid, than at that time. We therefore rededicate ourselves and our countries to strengthening and expanding the unwavering efforts of the Group of 77 and China in all fields towards greater achievement and for the betterment of the lives of our people.

14. We affirm that the twenty-first century is the time for the countries and the peoples from the South to develop their economies and societies in order to fulfil human needs sustainably, in harmony with nature and respect for Mother Earth and its ecosystems. We agree to build on our traditional values and practices of solidarity and collaboration for mutual benefit and on the strength of our people, to achieve progress in our countries and in South-South cooperation.

15. We emphasize that our major priorities are promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

16. We reaffirm that the main strength of the Group of 77 has been and will be its unity and solidarity, its vision of fair, just and equitable multilateral relations, the commitment of its member States to the well-being and prosperity of the peoples of the South as well as our commitment to mutually beneficial cooperation.

17. We emphasize that each country has the sovereign right to decide its own development priorities and strategies and consider that there is no "one size fits all" approach. We stress the need for international rules to allow policy space and policy flexibility for developing countries, as they are directly related to the development strategies of national Governments. We further emphasize the need for policy space to enable our countries to formulate development strategies expressing national interests and differing needs which are not always taken into account by international economic policymaking in the process of integration with the global economy.

18. We are concerned about the current state of the global economy and the state of global economic governance and the need for strong recovery. We believe that the world is confronted with the worst financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression, and we are alarmed by the adverse effects this crisis is having especially on developing countries. We believe the crisis has highlighted long-standing systemic fragilities and imbalances in the global economy, and further exposed the inadequacy and undemocratic nature of global economic governance. New attempts must now be made to establish proper global economic governance, with the full voice, representation and participation of developing countries in discussions and decision-making.

19. We recognize the high importance of sustaining social protection and fostering job creation even in times of economic crisis, and take note with satisfaction of the encouraging examples of policies that allow countries to reduce poverty, increase social inclusion and create new and better jobs in recent years.

20. We view with concern the increased concentration and the asymmetric distribution of wealth and income in the world, which have created wide inequality between developed and developing countries. This level of inequality is unjustifiable and cannot be tolerated in a world where poverty is still prevalent, resources are being depleted and environmental degradation is increasing. We call for global actions to reduce inequalities at all levels. We also pledge to address inequality in our own countries.

21. We note with concern the influence of large corporations, mainly from developed countries, on the global economy, and its negative effects on the social, economic and environmental development of some developing countries, particularly regarding the barriers this may pose for the entry of new enterprises in the global market. In this regard, we call for concrete measures from the international community to address these negative effects and to promote international competition and increased market access for developing countries,

including policies that foster the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, the removal of trade barriers that inhibit value addition in origin countries, such as tariff peaks and tariff escalation, as well as capacity-building on competition law, tax policy regulations and social corporate responsibility.

22. We emphasize that transnational corporations have a responsibility to respect all human rights and should refrain from causing environmental disasters and affecting the well-being of peoples.

23. We recognize the progress achieved in sustainable development at the regional, national, subnational and local levels and we reaffirm the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty by empowering the poor and people in vulnerable situations, promoting developing sustainable agriculture as well as full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors.

24. We fully respect the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly as they relate to equality among States, respect for the independence of States, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and stress that those principles and purposes inspire our full commitment to multilateralism and the search for a more just and equitable international economic system that offers opportunities to raise the standard of living of our peoples.

25. We are deeply aware that decades after political independence, some developing countries are still in the grip of economic dependence on the structures and vagaries of the global economy and on the developed countries and their economic entities. Such dependence, especially by poor and vulnerable countries, limits the extent of our real political independence as well. Therefore, we pledge to unite our efforts to continue striving for economic independence and to gather under the umbrella of the Group of 77 and China as well as other organizations of the South to make progress on this.

26. We recall the decisions taken at the second South Summit in Doha (2005) to work to ensure that programmes and policies designed in the context of globalization fully respect the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly as they relate to equality among States, respect for the independence of States, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and to stress that those principles and purposes inspire our full commitment to multilateralism and the search for a more just and equitable international economic system that offers opportunities to raise the standard of living of our peoples.

27. We also recall the decision taken at the Group of 77 and China Summit in Doha (2005) to work towards the realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affects their social and economic development, and to call on the international community to take all necessary measures to bring an end to the continuation of foreign occupation, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

28. We reaffirm that indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social

and cultural life of the State. In this regard, we emphasize the need to respect and safeguard indigenous cultural identities, knowledge and traditions in our countries.

Part II: Development in the national context

Approaches for sustainable development

29. We stress the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

30. We reaffirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions, which is our overarching goal (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development). In some countries there is an approach of "living well" as holistic development aimed at achieving the material, cultural and spiritual needs of societies in a context of harmony with nature.

31. We acknowledge that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home and we are convinced that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth. We also recognize that "Mother Earth" is a common expression for planet Earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit.

32. We welcome the celebration held in 2011 of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which is a major landmark document that establishes the right of developing countries to act to achieve development and the right of people to participate in and benefit from development.

33. In this context, we reaffirm that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process that aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom as recognized in the Declaration on the Right to Development.

34. We further reaffirm the proclamation in the Declaration on the Right to Development that the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized as recognized in the Declaration.

Improving the practice of democracy

35. We consider that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. We reaffirm that while all democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and further reaffirm the necessity of due respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity

and the right to self-determination, and the rejection of any attempt to break down constitutional and democratic order legitimately established by the peoples.

36. We call for an end to the use of media in any way that might disseminate distorted information against States members of the Group of 77 in complete disregard of the principle of international law.

37. We express our deep indignation and rejection with regard to the facts related to the surprise withdrawal of overflight and landing permits for the presidential aircraft on which President Evo Morales Ayma of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and his party were travelling on 2 July 2013. These facts constitute unfriendly and unjustifiable acts that have also put at serious risk the safety of President Morales. We make public our greater solidarity and demand clarification of facts.

National sovereignty and benefits over natural resources

38. We affirm that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

39. We also reaffirm that the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over the natural wealth and resources must be exercised in the interest of their national development and of the well-being of the people of the State concerned.

40. While emphasizing the sovereignty of our countries and peoples over their natural wealth, we are also aware of our duty to conserve and sustainably manage and use these resources and ensure the conditions for nature and ecosystems to have the capacity to regenerate, for the benefit of present and future generations. We also recognize that the sustainable use of natural resources is an effective way to achieve economic growth while reducing poverty and environmental degradation.

41. We take note of and respect the decisions of some countries that decided to nationalize or to reclaim control of their natural resources in order to obtain greater benefits for their people, especially the poor, and to invest in the economic diversification, industrialization and social programmes.

42. We urge that technical and capacity-building assistance be provided to developing countries at the international, regional and national levels to support them in obtaining the maximum benefits from the extraction and use of those resources in line with sustainable development, taking into account the full exercise of the sovereign right of our countries over their natural resources.

Eradication of poverty

43. We recognize that poverty is an affront to human dignity and stress that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and we attach the highest priority to poverty eradication in the United Nations post-2015 development agenda to be supported by effective and adequate means of implementation and strengthened global partnership for development, and which entails, among other objectives, the promotion of employment and decent work for all,

the improvement of access to social services, the eradication of illiteracy and diseases as well as integrated, coordinated and coherent national and regional strategies.

44. We express our deep concern for the constraints on the fight against poverty arising from the crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, the continuing food insecurity, the volatility of capital flows and the extreme volatility of commodity prices, energy accessibility and the challenges posed by climate change to developing countries.

45. We further stress that, in order to enable Governments of developing countries to effectively eradicate poverty, developing countries must ensure national ownership of their own development agenda, which entails preserving their own policy space backed by a strong political commitment to reduce poverty in line with their national priorities and circumstances. As such, Governments of developing countries must formulate their own development strategies to assist the poor through policies and actions, including on, but not limited to, strong, sustained and inclusive economic growth, the generation of employment as a priority, in particular for the young population, the improvement of the provision of universal and affordable access to basic services, the provision of a well-designed social protection system, the empowerment of individuals to seize economic opportunities, and measures to ensure the protection of the environment.

46. We recall the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and we recognize the need to continue promoting ratification of or accession to the Convention and its full implementation. We also recognize that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

47. We take note with appreciation of the ancestral and traditional values of some of our peoples such as the Andean principles of *Ama Suwa* ("do not be a thief"), *Ama Llulla* ("do not be a liar") and *Ama Qhilla* ("do not be lazy"), which in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms contribute to efforts to prevent and tackle corruption.

Reducing inequality

48. We emphasize that the problem of inequality is even more acute today than ever because of the prevalence of extreme wealth while poverty and hunger continue to exist and this is aggravated, inter alia, by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production mainly in developed countries. We affirm that any benefit from economic growth has to be equitably shared and must benefit the people in vulnerable situations in our communities, and we therefore call once again for concerted actions to reduce inequalities at all levels.

49. We are gravely concerned at the inadequacy of measures to narrow the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and within countries, which has contributed to, inter alia, deepening poverty and has adversely affected the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries.

50. We also note with concern that high levels of inequality within and among countries continue to have a negative impact on all aspects of human development and are especially harmful to people in vulnerable situations who are affected by

intersecting inequalities. We therefore urge countries, including through the support of international cooperation, to scale up efforts to provide equal access to opportunities and outcomes to all levels of society in accordance with national policies.

51. We understand that sustainable development involves a change in the order of priorities from the generation of material wealth to the satisfaction of human needs in harmony with nature. The excessive orientation towards profit neither respects Mother Earth nor takes into account human needs. The continuation of this unequal system will lead to further inequality.

Sustained and inclusive economic growth

52. We affirm that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is necessary to eradicate poverty, provide jobs and raise the living standards of our people and generate public revenues to finance social policies. We note that historical evidence has shown that no country has ever achieved constant improvements in living standards and human development without sustaining a steady pace of economic growth. We therefore urge the international community and the United Nations to assist developing countries in attaining high and adequate economic growth over a sustained period.

53. We also realize that high economic growth, although necessary, is not sufficient in itself. We realize that economic growth must be sustained and inclusive by generating jobs and lifting the incomes of peoples in vulnerable situations, especially the poor and the most in need. Economic growth should also be environmentally and socially sound and, to achieve this, developing countries require, among other sources, financial and technological support from developed countries according to national plans.

Creation of employment

54. We express the view that the capacity to generate full employment and decent work is fundamentally linked to reviving and enhancing productive development strategies, through adequate finance, investment and trade policies. In this regard, we reaffirm the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to give strong support to developing countries in their efforts to promote sustainable development. We also stress the need to maintain coherence between macroeconomic and job creation policies in order to ensure inclusive and resilient global economic growth.

55. We are deeply concerned about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, and affirm our commitment to reducing unemployment through employment-intensive macroeconomic and development policies. We affirm the need to launch an intergovernmental process, within the United Nations, to include the issue of youth employment and youth concerns in the current process of the post-2015 development agenda. We also affirm the importance of ensuring decent livelihoods for farmers in our countries.

56. We affirm the need to launch an intergovernmental process within the United Nations to develop a global strategy on improving employment skills and generating youth employment.

Providing basic services for our people

57. We are concerned that there remains a substantial and increasing gap between the world's rich and poor, which is due not only to an unequal distribution of income, but also to unequal access to basic resources and services, which hinders the creation of economic opportunities for all.

58. We recognize that the State has an essential role to play to ensure that basic services are accessible to all and to address the unequal and discriminatory distribution of and access to them.

59. We also reaffirm our resolve to act to implement the right of our people to access basic services.

60. We reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, to be progressively implemented and realized for our populations with full respect for national sovereignty.

61. We call upon donor countries and international organizations to advance in the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, through international assistance to and cooperation with developing countries, in order to scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

Access to public health and medicines

62. We recognize that universal health coverage means that everyone has access, without discrimination, to a set of basic medical services of promotion, prevention, cure and rehabilitation that meet the needs and are determined nationally, as well as to essential quality, safe, affordable and effective medicines while ensuring that the use of these services does not entail serious economic difficulties for users, especially people in vulnerable situations.

63. We also recognize that many developing countries do not have the financial or human resources or the infrastructure to implement the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Therefore, we call upon developed countries and relevant international organizations to provide the adequate financial resources and technology to developing countries that will complement their efforts to have policies and measures that provide universal health coverage and basic health services for all.

64. We note with great concern that non-communicable diseases have become an epidemic of significant proportions, undermining the sustainable development of member States. In that sense, we acknowledge the effectiveness of tobacco control measures for the improvement of health. We reaffirm the right of member States to protect public health and, in particular, to ensure universal access to medicines and medical diagnostic technologies, if necessary, including through the full use of the flexibilities in the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and Public Health.

65. We recall paragraph 142 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the TRIPS Agreement, the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement, which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and in particular to promote access to medicines for all and encourage the provision of assistance to developing countries in this regard. We affirm the importance of taking advantage of the use of TRIPS flexibilities in order to promote the people's health and access to medicines. We call upon developed countries to fully respect the right of developing countries to make full use of TRIPS flexibilities and to refrain from taking actions, including trade measures, to prevent or dissuade developing countries from exercising this right.

66. We are concerned about the increasing problem of antimicrobial resistance to existing drugs, including those against tuberculosis and malaria. As a result, increasing numbers of patients, especially in developing countries, face the prospect of dying from preventable and/or treatable diseases. We urge the international health authorities and organizations, especially the World Health Organization (WHO), to take urgent action and to work together upon request with developing countries that do not have adequate resources to address this problem.

Agricultural development and food security

67. We recall that food security and nutrition are essential elements for achieving sustainable development and express concern that developing countries are vulnerable to, among others, the adverse impacts of climate change, further threatening food security.

68. We reaffirm that hunger is a violation of human dignity and call for urgent measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to eliminate it. We also reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food in accordance with their right to adequate food and the fundamental right to be free from hunger, in order to develop and maintain their full physical and mental capacities. We also acknowledge that food security and nutrition are essential to sustainable development and have become a pressing global challenge and, in this regard, we further reaffirm our commitment to enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food for present and future generations in line with the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, adopted on 16 November 2009, including for children under the age of 2, and through, as appropriate, national, regional and global food security and nutrition strategies.

69. We denounce that subsidies and other market distortions driven by developed countries have seriously affected the agricultural sector of developing countries, limiting the ability of this key sector to significantly contribute to the eradication of poverty and to sustained, inclusive economic growth and equitable, sustainable development, food security and rural development. We call for the immediate elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures taken by developed countries that are not in compliance with WTO rules. We urge developed countries to show flexibility and political will to adequately address these fundamental concerns of developing countries in the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

70. We reiterate our commitment to conclude multilateral disciplines on fisheries subsidies which give effect to the WTO Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong ministerial mandates to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries

sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation, taking into account the importance of the sector to development priorities, poverty reduction, and livelihood and food security concerns.

71. We emphasize the need to strengthen the capacity of our countries, especially through international cooperation, to safeguard and enhance our people's nutrition through the promotion of their productive cultural and environmental practices.

72. We also emphasize the urgent need to increase efforts at the national, regional and international levels to address food security and agriculture development as an integral part of the international development agenda. We demand sustained funding and increased targeted investment to enhance world food production and call for new and additional financial resources from all sources to achieve sustainable agriculture development and food security.

73. We further emphasize the need to strengthen the agricultural sector as part of the post-2015 agenda with its means of implementation, to achieve food security, stressing the importance of including the knowledge, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples, rural communities and small- and medium-scale farmers in national, regional and international strategies aimed at achieving food security.

74. We welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 68/177 on the right to food and resolution 68/233 on agricultural development, food security and nutrition. We also welcome the Second International Conference on Nutrition, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO, to be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, which aims to approve the nutrition policy framework for the coming decades and to determine priorities for international cooperation in the field of nutrition in the short and medium term.

75. We welcome the decision of the Director General of FAO to appoint for the second year Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Nadine Heredia Alarcón, First Lady of Peru, as Special Ambassadors of Quinoa, recognizing their leadership and commitment in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and that the Bolivian and Peruvian Governments showed the world the benefits and quality of that Andean food source.

76. We reaffirm that quinoa's biodiversity and nutritional value make it central to providing food security and nutrition and to eradicating poverty, as well as to promoting the traditional knowledge of the Andean indigenous peoples, contributing to the achievement of food security, nutrition and poverty eradication and raising awareness of their contribution to social, economic and environmental development, and sharing good practices on implementation.

77. We call for the creation of conditions for the development of economic opportunities for the benefit of small-scale and family farmers, peasant and indigenous peoples and communities, and the creation of options for connecting them with consumers, as part of the national strategies for the realization of the right to food.

78. We recognize the positive role of small-scale and family farmers, including women, cooperatives, indigenous peoples and local communities in developing countries, and their knowledge and practices, in the conservation and sustainable use of seeds, agrobiodiversity and biodiversity associated with food production of present and future generations.

79. We stress the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility, including its structural causes, at all levels, and the need to manage the risks linked to excessively volatile prices in agricultural commodities and their consequences for global food security and nutrition, as well as for small-scale farmers and poor urban dwellers.

80. We call for the prioritization of development in the WTO Doha Round of negotiations in accordance with the Doha Development Agenda, including food security. We call for the promotion of the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and rural development in developing countries. In this context, we urge WTO members to adopt a permanent solution to the issue of public stock holding and food security for developing countries, as agreed by the WTO Ministerial Decision adopted in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013, as soon as possible.

Sustainable family farming

81. We declare that family farms and small farms are an important basis for sustainable food production aimed at achieving food security (General Assembly resolution 66/222). In this framework, support should be given to the economic activities of sustainable family farming, taking into account the traditional knowledge of such farmers, in order to improve their situation and development, in particular promoting their access to financial services, productive resources and agricultural inputs such as land, seeds, appropriate technology, transport and information.

82. We will promote comprehensive and complementary national and regional actions for production, access and consumption based on integral, multisectoral and participatory planning, reassessing and strengthening sustainable family farming, small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.

Industrialization and infrastructure

83. We affirm that industrial development and value addition, together with science, technology and innovation, are, among others, essential elements for developing countries to attain higher development levels in a sustained way, as the industrialization process can generate higher productivity, more jobs and skills and positive spillover effects on the economy. Therefore, we urge developed countries to assist developing countries in boosting industrialization in their development strategies and policies and in promoting inclusive sustainable industrial development, in accordance with their national interests.

84. We note that many developing countries are still overly dependent on commodities and that they should explore industrial diversification strategies by, inter alia, enhancing value-adding productive capacities.

85. We call on relevant international organizations and request international cooperation mechanisms to provide adequate assistance to developing countries, including through technology transfer, to develop their capacities to design and

implement industrialization strategies and policies, in accordance with their national priorities.

86. We call for the international trading system to respect and reinforce the policy space of developing countries for the promotion and growth of our industrial development and for the design and implementation of our industrial strategies. In this regard, we call for the revision of all rules within the world trading system that affect the policy space of developing countries.

87. We affirm that the development of reliable and affordable infrastructure, regional connectivity, and its appropriate interlinkage through science, technology and innovation, including transport, roads, energy and telecommunications, as well as the promotion of market access for exports coming from developing countries, are essential elements in improving the quality of life of our people and in the sustainable development of our countries.

88. In this regard, we urge developed countries and international organizations, in accordance with internationally agreed commitments, to provide adequate financial assistance to support the transfer of reliable and affordable technologies and to promote capacity-building, taking into account national priorities.

89. We urge developed countries to provide technical assistance, technology transfer and financial resources to enable our countries to industrialize and develop our infrastructure in ways that are environmentally sustainable.

90. We emphasize in this regard the importance of technical assistance for industrial development in member States with the aim of adopting cleaner, resource-based and energy-efficient sustainable consumption and production patterns, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies.

91. We welcome the initiative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as Chair of the Group of 77 and China, to organize the Meeting of Ministers of Industrialization and counterparts on the issue of governance of natural resources and industrialization, in coordination with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, to take place in Tarija, Plurinational State of Bolivia, in August 2014.

92. We welcome the Lima Declaration: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, which was adopted at the fifteenth session of the General Conference of UNIDO, held in Lima in December 2013, as an important step in our common endeavours to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

Inclusion of women in development

93. We recall the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, reaffirm the vital role of women and the need for full and equal opportunities for their participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development, and decide to accelerate the implementation of our respective commitments in this regard as contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as in Agenda 21, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the United Nations Millennium Declaration

and the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

94. We also recognize that the potential of women to engage in, contribute to and benefit from sustainable development as leaders, participants and agents of change has not been fully realized. We support prioritizing measures to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of our societies. We resolve to unlock the potential of women as drivers of sustainable development through many measures and commit to creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of women and girls everywhere, particularly in rural areas and local communities and among indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.

95. We are committed to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation, to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, and to ensure access to education, finance, information and communications technologies, markets, legal assistance and other basic services, including health-care services, including safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning.

96. We recall our respective commitments under General Assembly resolution 61/143 and other relevant resolutions on this matter, recognize that violence against women seriously violates all human rights of women, and therefore agree to take action to eliminate all forms of violence, including feminicide and discrimination against women and girls, by means of a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, adequately supported and facilitated by strong institutional mechanisms and financing, through national action plans, including those supported by international cooperation and, where appropriate, national development plans, including poverty eradication strategies and programme-based and sector-wide approaches.

97. We reaffirm the commitment to work together towards a post-2015 development agenda with a gender perspective.

98. We urge the need to tackle critical remaining challenges for women and girls through a transformative and comprehensive approach and call for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone sustainable development goal and to be integrated through targets with inclusive policies to overcome poverty and foster social and economic development in our countries.

Indigenous peoples

99. We urge efforts towards the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, natural resources, identity and culture, in accordance with national legislation. We reaffirm our respective commitments to implement our legal obligations, including, as appropriate, Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization, as well as to promote the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

100. We reaffirm the value and the diversity of the cultures and the forms of social organization of indigenous peoples and their holistic traditional scientific knowledge, innovations and practices, which play a significant role in strengthening the livelihoods of the local populations, ensuring food security and addressing climate change.

101. We stress the importance of indigenous peoples in the achievement of sustainable development in developing countries and their critical role in the social, economic and political processes of our countries, while strengthening the local views and values referred to as the holistic views of Mother Earth.

102. We reaffirm the importance of the role of collective action and the efforts of indigenous and local communities in conserving biodiversity, considering their critical role in the stewardship and sustainable management of natural renewable resources.

103. We consider that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change are contingent upon different sociocultural contexts, taking particular account of indigenous peoples and local communities and their traditional knowledge systems and practices, including their holistic view of community and environment, as a major means of adapting to climate change.

104. We call for strengthening the interscientific dialogue between traditional and indigenous knowledge systems with modern sciences in the context of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and of the conceptual framework of "Living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth", approved by the Platform.

105. We welcome the convening of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in New York on 22 and 23 September 2014, with the purpose of sharing insights and best practices on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The action-oriented outcome document of this Conference should contribute to the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples and the pursuit of the objectives of the Declaration, and promote the achievement of all internationally agreed development goals.

106. We take note of the Special Declaration on the Coca Leaf of the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean States within the framework of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana on 29 January 2014, which acknowledges the importance of preserving the cultural and traditional practices of indigenous peoples in the context of respecting all their human and fundamental rights, in conformity with the relevant international instruments. In this context, the Heads of State and Government recognize coca leaf chewing (*akuliku*, or *chacchado*) as an ancestral cultural manifestation of the people of the Andean region that must be respected by the international community and express interest in knowing the results of scientific research conducted by renowned institutes and universities of the international community on the properties of the coca leaf.

Part III: South-South cooperation

107. We reaffirm the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, therefore recognize the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirm our view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed

development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

108. We reaffirm the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation, especially in the current international economic environment, and reiterate our support for South-South cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of developing countries and as a means of enhancing their participation in the global economy. We reiterate the position of the Group that South-South cooperation is a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation and reaffirm that South-South cooperation is a collective endeavour of developing countries based on the principle of solidarity and premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations, and that as such, South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion, as reaffirmed in the Nairobi outcome document. In this context, we stress that South-South cooperation and its agenda must be driven by the countries of the South. As such, South-South cooperation, which is critical for developing countries, requires long-term vision and a global institutional arrangement, as envisioned by the Second South Summit.

109. We welcome the convening of the High-level Panel of Eminent Personalities of the South in Natadola, Fiji, from 7 to 9 May 2013, in accordance with the relevant mandate of the second South Summit. We also welcome the Panel's conclusions and recommendations on the future landscape of South-South cooperation as an important contribution to the further development of the Development Platform for the South. We reiterate the framework and principles of South-South cooperation first endorsed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their 32nd annual meeting, held in New York on 26 September 2008, which the Panel also used as a basis for their discussions.

110. We welcome the conclusion of the third round of the Global System of Trade Preferences, which is a tool to promote and strengthen South-South trade integration, and call upon more developing countries to participate in the Global System.

111. We also note and welcome the increase in regional cooperation initiatives that concretely manifest South-South cooperation and integration in various areas, such as finance, banking, trade, health care and food production. We hope that these initiatives will benefit not only the participants of the regional programmes but also other developing countries. We call for further initiatives in the future, as well as concrete ways in which developing countries can share experiences and good practices so as to spread these South-South initiatives.

112. We encourage our countries to exchange experiences and best practices with regard to the equal access by all to basic services.

113. We stress that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the General Assembly is the central multilateral policymaking body in the United Nations system to review and assess global and system-wide progress and support for South-South development cooperation, including triangular cooperation, and to provide overall guidance on future directions.

114. We also stress that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, is not a substitute for, but is rather a complement to, North-South cooperation and its agenda has to be set by countries of the South. We support the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation in the policies and strategic framework of funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as its strengthening through the system-wide provision of additional resources, including through financial and human resources to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and recognize that the Office, currently hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), constitutes a separate entity with a distinct legal nature, entrusted with the coordination on a global and United Nations system-wide basis for promoting and facilitating initiatives related to South-South cooperation for development.

115. In this regard, we request the establishment of a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism for the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to encouraging joint support for South-South and triangular initiatives, as well as sharing information on development activities and results achieved by various funds, agencies and organizations in support of South-South and triangular cooperation.

116. We also call upon the United Nations development system to promote transfer of technologies from developed countries for the benefit of developing countries to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and in this context encourage, when possible, technology cooperation among the countries of the South.

117. We acknowledge the role played by the South Centre in supporting the Group of 77. We call upon the members of the Group to further support the Centre and call upon the Centre to expand its activities for the benefit of developing countries. We encourage organizations of developing countries, including the South Centre, to come up with ideas and suggest action plans to further operationalize South-South cooperation.

Part IV: Global challenges

Global partnership for development

118. We stress the need for a new and stronger commitment by developed countries to international cooperation aimed at supporting the fulfilment of the development aspirations of developing countries. As part of the Millennium Development Goals, a commitment was made to a global partnership for development, which was the international cooperation dimension of the Millennium Development Goals framework. However, we note with concern the significant shortfall in the partnership under the Goals, which contributed to the lack of achievement of many goals and targets. We therefore call for the urgent implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development so as to overcome the gaps identified in the reports of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force.

119. We also call upon leaders of the developed countries to agree and commit to a new phase of international cooperation through a strengthened and scaled-up global partnership for development, which should be the centrepiece and anchor for both

the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. Such an enhanced global partnership should include the issues of providing financial resources to developing countries, official development assistance, debt relief and debt restructuring, trade, technology transfer and greater participation of developing countries in global economic governance.

Official development assistance

120. We reaffirm that official development assistance remains the main source of international financing for many developing countries and that it is essential as a catalyst for development, facilitating the achievement of national development objectives, including the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, in accordance with paragraph 246 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("The future we want").

121. We stress that developed countries must meet and scale up their existing official development assistance commitments and targets made, inter alia, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the 2005 World Summit outcome, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and in relevant forums. An enhanced predictable and sustainable flow of official development assistance is essential to meet the regular development challenges as well as the new and emerging challenges in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries. We recall the unfulfilled commitment made by developed countries at the meeting held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

122. We urge the developed countries to fulfil their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance for developing countries as well as to achieve the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries and to increase the target to 1 per cent of gross national income by 2030. We express our deep concern that official development assistance commitments remain unfulfilled.

123. The global financial and economic crisis cannot be an excuse to avoid fulfilling existing aid commitments by developed countries and to make further commitments. An effective response to the economic crisis requires timely implementation of existing aid commitments and an urgent and unavoidable need for donors to fulfil them. We therefore call upon developed countries collectively to fulfil their official development assistance commitments and to raise overall levels further, keeping in mind that the developing countries will require new, additional and sustainable financial resources to a significant extent and amount in order to implement a wide range of development activities.

124. We stress the need for ensuring new and additional financial support to developing countries as a key means of implementation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the forthcoming sustainable development goals. Financial assistance should be made available without conditionalities, since development strategies should be country-led and take into account the specific conditions, needs and priorities of developing countries. It should be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, with North-South cooperation at its core and South-South and triangular cooperation as a useful complement.

125. We stress that official development assistance is a key source for financing the development of developing countries that should be used in accordance with their national developmental priorities without conditionalities, and express our deep concern about the attempt made by donor countries, outside United Nations forums, to redefine official development assistance by including other sources of financing that are not linked or related to the development of developing countries, with the objective of disguising the drop in official development assistance flows not based on their agreed commitments, which are still pending fulfilment.

External debt

126. We are concerned that, with the global economic crisis, the economies of increasing numbers of developing countries are being affected and that some countries are becoming more vulnerable to new external debt problems or even crises. Addressing the external debt problems of developing countries is thus an important part of international cooperation and the enhanced global partnership for development.

127. We are of the view that debt crises tend to be costly and disruptive and are usually followed by large cuts in public spending and a decline in economic growth and employment. These crises affect developing countries more deeply and those that are heavily indebted are unable to return to the path of growth without international assistance. We recognize the importance of debt relief, including debt cancellation, debt restructuring, debt moratorium and debt audit procedures. Debt restructuring processes should have as their core element a determination of real payment capacity so that they may not adversely affect economic growth and the fulfilment of the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, we reiterate the urgent need for the international community to examine options for an effective, equitable, durable, independent and development-oriented international debt resolution mechanism, and call upon all countries to promote and contribute to the discussions within the United Nations and other appropriate forums with that objective.

128. We also recall that sovereign debt management has been a crucial issue for developing countries in past decades and recent years. Recently, a new concern has emerged relating to the activities of vulture funds. Recent examples of the actions of vulture funds in international courts have revealed their highly speculative nature. Such funds pose a risk to all future debt-restructuring processes, both for developing and developed countries. We therefore stress the importance of not allowing vulture funds to paralyse the debt-restructuring efforts of developing countries, and that these funds should not supersede a State's right to protect its people under international law.

129. We express serious concern about the substantial increase in the financial stability risks of many developed economies and, in particular, their high structural fragilities in financing sovereign debt created as a result of transferring private risk to the public sector. In this regard, we call for urgent and coherent solutions to reduce sovereign risk in developed economies in order to prevent contagion and to mitigate its impact on the international financial system and on developing countries.

130. We stress the need to ensure that the economic and monetary policies implemented by developed countries do not affect global aggregate demand and liquidity, owing to the objective of finding surplus in their balance of payments, with negative results in the reduction of global revenues in developing countries.

Reforming the global financial architecture

131. We affirm the need for reform of the international financial architecture so that we have a financial and monetary system that reflects the realities of the twenty-first century, including a properly regulated international financial sector that reduces and discourages speculative investment, in order for capital markets to be mobilized to achieve sustainable development and play a constructive role in the global development agenda.

132. We also note the continuation of fundamental problems in the global financial and monetary system, including lack of regulation to ensure financial stability, the problems of the reserve currencies, the volatility in currency exchange rates, the speculative and large cross-border flows of capital and the insufficiency or unavailability of liquidity for developing countries in need of financial resources that face foreign exchange shortfalls or require resources to generate sustainable growth and development. We call for a programme of reforms, with full voice, representation and participation of developing countries, to address these problems.

133. We note with concern that financial deregulation and financial liberalization have given rise to the massive expansion of speculative financial flows and derivatives trading. The financial and economic crisis of 2008 has illustrated that international finance has created an economy of its own, which has become increasingly disconnected from the real economy of production, direct investment, job creation and wage growth. The adverse effects of financialization include volatile capital flows, excessive commodity and food price fluctuations, rapid shifts in exchange rates and boom-bust cycles of financial crisis and economic recession.

134. We urge that the reform process of the governance structure of the Bretton Woods institutions be finalized as soon as possible and be much more ambitious, and that an accelerated plan be established for further reforms in representation, participation and parity of voting power for developing countries in the decision-making process within the Bretton Woods institutions and in all discussions on international monetary reform and in the operation of the new arrangements for special drawing rights in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on the basis of criteria that truly reflect its mandate in the field of development and with the participation of all stakeholders in an equitable, transparent, consultative and inclusive process. In this regard, we call on the General Assembly to launch a process to reform the international financial and monetary system.

135. We support exploration of the establishment of a United Nations intergovernmental mechanism under the General Assembly, as an entity responsible for monitoring the performance of the global economic and financial system in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. It is important that this mechanism monitor the impact of certain international financial flows and policies that are systemically important to prevent the spread of economic and financial crisis among countries.

Reforming the credit rating system

136. We stress that international efforts to reregulate the financial sector should include the credit rating agencies. Governments should limit their regulatory reliance on credit rating agencies and reform legal regimes to hold them liable for negligent behaviour in order to suppress conflicts of interest and ensure integrity, accountability and transparency.

137. We also stress the need for a more transparent international credit rating system that takes fully into account the needs, concerns and peculiarities of developing countries, especially heavily indebted developing countries. In this regard, we express concern about the extent of soundness of the methodology used by the major credit rating agencies. We emphasize that greater transparency and competition among rating agencies is necessary to avoid oligopolistic tendencies and their negative effects. We reiterate that an inadequate assessment of the solvency of debtors has the potential to cause or exacerbate crises, rendering the financial system more vulnerable. It is necessary to continue the discussions at the United Nations and other venues on the role of credit rating agencies, with a view to proposing concrete policies aimed at reducing dependency on them by enhancing their supervision and increasing transparency and competition through the establishment of independent assessment mechanisms.

Global economic governance

138. We affirm that the current world financial and economic crisis and its consequences for development have exposed the gaps and failures in global economic governance, including within the international financial institutions, and the urgent need for a global, universal and integrated response by the international community. We note with deep concern that seven years after the outbreak of the global crisis, there has been little progress made to strengthen the systemic, regulatory and structural aspects of the global financial system. Moreover, the lack of participation by developing countries in general in global economic issues and governance persists; this is a matter of grave concern because the workings of the global system affect all countries, and this democratic deficit has even more serious consequences for developing countries when the global economy is slowing down or in recession.

139. We strongly call on the international community to redress the democratic deficit in global economic governance and provide developing countries their rightful place and participation in the governance and decision-making of all the institutions and forums where discussions and decisions are taken on global economic and financial issues.

140. We affirm that efforts to reform the international financial architecture should therefore be seriously strengthened, should be internationally coordinated and should lead to the full participation of developing countries in international financial and economic decision-making and norm-setting. We call for comprehensive reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, including enhancement of the voting powers of developing countries in a time-bound manner, in order to enable greater equity between developed and developing countries and to eliminate all types of conditionalities tied to aid.

141. We call for the urgent completion of the 2010 IMF quota formula reform in order to ensure that the quotas and governance of IMF better reflect the relative weight of emerging and developing countries in the global economy. However, the redistribution of voting rights to reflect reality alone will not resolve the structural problems of financial instability and the lack of liquidity for developing countries in need to generate the necessary sustainable growth and development. Also the reform should encompass liquidity creation, including improvement in the special drawing rights for developing countries. IMF must provide more comprehensive and flexible financial responses to the needs of developing countries, without imposing procyclical conditionalities and respecting their need for adequate policy space. Furthermore, leading personnel of the Bretton Woods institutions must be designated on the basis of their individual merits, through an open and fair process of selection. As long as IMF does not reflect the new realities in the global economy and its Director General keeps being designated through a process that lacks any transparency, its legitimacy will remain questionable.

142. We stress the need to hold a follow-up international conference on financing for development in 2015 to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration with a view to contributing to the post-2015 development agenda process.

143. While respecting the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the intergovernmental nature of the Organization, we recognize the important role of the United Nations in providing an intergovernmental forum, including through international conferences and summits for universal dialogue and consensus on global challenges with the due participation of relevant stakeholders.

144. We reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

Strengthening and reorienting the United Nations

145. We reaffirm our commitment to increase the participation of developing countries in the decision-making bodies of multilateral institutions in order to render them more consistent with the current geopolitical reality.

146. We stress the importance of the central role of the United Nations in global economic governance, which aims at enhancing the global partnership for development with a view to creating a supportive and enabling global environment for the attainment of sustainable development and to ensuring financial and economic stability. In this context, the General Assembly and a strengthened Economic and Social Council could both act to mitigate the impact of the international financial and economic crisis and to ensure the right of developing countries to policy space for sustainable development.

147. We stress that strengthening of the United Nations and its role in international cooperation for development is essential to respond to current and future challenges and opportunities emanating from the process of globalization. We recognize that the United Nations needs to improve its capabilities and capacities to fully implement its mandates and to ensure the effective delivery of its programmes in the social and economic development fields. In this regard, we urge the Secretary-

General to further strengthen the development pillar of the whole Organization, including its Development Account.

148. We urge developed countries to show real political will, so that in the process of reform of the United Nations, including the strengthening and revitalization of the General Assembly as an emblem of global sovereignty, it can improve its capabilities and capacities to fully implement its mandates and ensure the effective delivery of its programme in the social, environmental and economic development fields.

149. We stress that strengthening of the United Nations and its role in international cooperation for development is essential to respond to current and future challenges and opportunities emanating from the process of globalization. Within this context, we express our concern over the growing imbalance between assessed and voluntary contributions in the proposed programme budgets of the Organization. We also stress that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations must be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full and effective implementation.

150. We reaffirm that any United Nations Secretariat and management reform efforts, including on the budget process, must not seek to change the intergovernmental, multilateral and international nature of the Organization, but must strengthen the ability of Member States to perform their oversight and monitoring role, and that prior consideration and approval by Member States is essential in all cases where the measures to be implemented fall under the prerogatives of the General Assembly, and in this regard we recall resolution 66/257. We also reiterate the need to increase the representation of developing countries and the representation of women from developing countries, in particular at the senior levels, and to improve geographic distribution in the Secretariat and transparency in the recruitment process.

151. We call for continued efforts to reform the United Nations, including the revitalization of the General Assembly and a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, which correspond to the collective interests of developing countries.

152. We express concern over budget cuts that have a negative impact on the implementation of mandates approved by the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, particularly in the development pillar, and the growing imbalance between assessed and voluntary contributions.

153. We call for greater transparency, accountability and oversight by Member States with respect to voluntary and extrabudgetary resources. It is important that resources from voluntary and extrabudgetary contributions be used to support all priorities agreed to by Member States and that they be used strictly in accordance with the intergovernmentally agreed financial regulations and rules of the Organization.

154. We underscore the central role of the United Nations in global economic governance, as a truly universal and inclusive multilateral forum with unquestioned legitimacy, convening power and normative frameworks. We emphasize the important role that the General Assembly should play in the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations upon the recommendation of the Security Council in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter. In this regard, we stress that the process of selection of the Secretary-General should be inclusive of all Member

States, as well as more transparent. Furthermore, we believe that regional rotation, as well as respect for equitable geographical representation, should be taken into account during selection and appointment processes.

155. We also recognize the importance of increasing the number of nationals from developing countries at the senior level in the Secretariat, in particular in the Senior Management Group.

Technology transfer, science and innovation for development

156. We believe that science, knowledge and technology integration and innovation should be instruments for promoting peace and people's sustainable development, well-being and happiness and that they should thus be oriented towards the promotion of the empowerment of the poor, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the promotion of solidarity and complementarity among and within peoples so that they may live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

157. We express our concern that science, technology and innovation can be abused as instruments to limit and undermine countries' sovereignty, sustainable development and poverty eradication.

158. We call for an end to the use of information and communication technologies, including social networks, in contravention of international law and in detriment to any State, in particular members of the Group of 77 or their citizens.

159. We reaffirm that technology plays a key role in addressing development challenges across a wide scope of issues, including in food and agriculture, water and sanitation, climate change, energy, industry, chemicals and waste management. Technology transfer, technology integration and the development and promotion of endogenous technologies are important for developing countries to engender economic growth in an environmentally sustainable manner. We call on developed countries to implement their commitments to transfer technology to developing countries and provide access to technology on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, to enable the developing countries to shift to a more sustainable development path.

160. It is imperative that developed countries recommit themselves to the objective of technology transfer as one of the major components, along with finance, capacity-building and trade, of provision of the means of implementation towards sustainable development for developing countries, and to take actions to bridge the technological gap. We call for the early establishment by the United Nations system of a technology facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies.

161. We call for regulations and policies on intellectual property to be placed within a development framework, whereby intellectual property rights are oriented towards the promotion of balanced social, economic and environmental development. In this regard, we support the measures taken by developing countries to promote the implementation of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Development Agenda recommendations of 2007. We reiterate our call, made in paragraph 8 (vii) of the 2005 Doha Plan of Action adopted at the second South Summit of the Group of 77, for WIPO to continue to include in its future plans and activities, including legal advice, a development dimension that includes promoting

development and access to knowledge for all, pro-development norm-setting, harmonization with the Convention on Biological Diversity rules, establishing development-friendly principles, and the transfer and dissemination of technology.

162. We also reiterate that the TRIPS Agreement of WTO contains flexibilities, and that it is the right of developing States members of WTO to make use of such flexibilities, as confirmed in the 2001 Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health of WTO, and we support the use of these flexibilities in our countries, with the aim of promoting health, education and economic and social development. We note with great interest and appreciation that some developing countries have successfully made use of some TRIPS flexibilities to promote the use of generic medicines, which are lower in cost and thus greatly increase access to medicines at affordable prices. We reject attempts by any developed country or business interest to pressure developing countries not to exercise their right to make use of TRIPS Agreement flexibilities for social and development purposes and express our solidarity with those developing countries that have come under such pressure.

163. We stress the need to protect the knowledge of developing countries, indigenous peoples and local communities with regard to genetic resources, biodiversity and traditional knowledge, and especially from continuing attempts by persons or companies to patent such resources and knowledge without the approval of the countries, indigenous peoples and communities concerned.

164. We call for intensified efforts by our negotiators and policymakers to establish legal mechanisms, internationally or nationally, to prevent biopiracy by requiring disclosure of the country of origin and proof of benefit-sharing arrangements by applicants for such patents. We also call for strong provisions and effective mechanisms for technology transfer, including appropriate treatment of intellectual property, in the international climate change regime in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Trade

165. We believe that trade in the context of appropriate policies and rules can be an important tool for economic development. Because of the continuing global financial and economic crisis, there has been a decline in trade growth, which has had a severe impact on many developing countries as the result of the fall in export revenues, trade barriers and trade-distorting subsidies in developed countries, and restricted access to trade finance and reduced investment in production diversification and in the promotion of exports and remains a matter of concern. It is essential to establish and uphold a universal, fair, rules-based, open, pro-development, non-discriminatory, inclusive and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to growth, sustainable development and employment, particularly for developing countries.

166. We call for a timely and successful conclusion to the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which must fully respect its development mandate and place the needs and priorities of developing countries at its centre. Following the WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali in 2013, we call for an inclusive and transparent negotiating process and the prioritizing of the interests and issues of developing countries in the post-Bali programme. We view with concern that some developed countries members of WTO are more interested in gaining market access to developing countries, while they are themselves not willing to take adequate

measures to eliminate or reduce protectionism in their agriculture sector or to provide more market access to developing countries.

167. We reiterate that developed countries should provide effective, sustainably financed trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building tailored to the specific needs and constraints of developing countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework of WTO, in order to address the supply-side and trade-related infrastructure and productive capacity constraints of least developed countries. Likewise, it is crucial for developing countries to have access to financial and technical assistance for capacity-building in order to implement effectively the new WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. In this context, special focus must be given, among other elements, to those projects and programmes oriented towards developing and strengthening corridors for reducing costs in international transit.

168. We emphasize the importance of facilitating accession to WTO. The accession process should be accelerated without political impediment and in an expeditious and transparent manner for developing countries, in full compliance with WTO rules. This would contribute to the rapid and full integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system.

169. We believe that trade rules, in WTO or in bilateral and regional trade agreements, should enable developing countries to have sufficient policy space so that they can make use of policy instruments and measures that are required for their economic and social development. We reiterate our call for the effective strengthening of the special and differential treatment and less than full reciprocity principles and provisions in WTO so as to broaden the policy space of developing countries and enable them to benefit more from the multilateral trading system. We also call for bilateral trade and investment agreements involving developed and developing countries to have sufficient special and differential treatment for developing countries to enable them to retain adequate policy space for social and economic development.

Migration

170. We consider that the nexus between migration and development must be addressed comprehensively, mindful of the economic, social and environmental dimensions and include a cultural and human perspective. We recognize the need to address this issue through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive, balanced, coordinated and coherent approach, recognizing the role and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and their families, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status.

171. We note that despite progress in discussion and dialogue and cooperation at the international level, migration remains inadequately reflected in development frameworks, development agendas and sectoral policies at both the national and global levels. Therefore, we are exploring the possibility of a legally binding convention on migration and development to improve the governance of international migration and to protect and promote the human rights of migrants and their contribution to development, regardless of their migratory status.

172. We acknowledge the important role that migrants play as partners in the development of origin, transit and destination countries, and the need to enhance the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant workers and their families. We also stress the need to continue to consider the recognition of the qualifications and competencies of migrants and their access to low-cost financial services for remittances.

Climate change

173. We affirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. In this regard, we stress that the international response to climate change must fully respect the principles, provisions and ultimate objective of the Convention, in particular the principles of equity and of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

174. We reiterate that fulfilling the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will require strengthening the multilateral, rules-based regime under the Convention and therefore further reaffirm the importance of continuing the negotiations on climate change under the Convention in accordance with its principles and provisions and of adopting, in 2015, a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties.

175. We recall that climate change is one of the most serious global challenges of our times. We underscore the fact that developing countries continue to suffer the most from the adverse impacts of climate change, the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and the impact of response measures, even though they are the least responsible for climate change. Accordingly, we call for developed countries to take the lead in responding to climate change. Climate change threatens not only the development prospects of developing countries and their achievement of sustainable development but also the very existence and survival of countries and societies.

176. We recognize that low-lying and other small island countries, developing countries with low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas or areas liable to floods, drought and desertification, and developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

177. We reaffirm the importance of implementing the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts adopted at the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013 (decision 2/CP.19). We also recognize the urgency of taking concrete steps during this year, ahead of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Lima, for the immediate operationalization of the mechanism.

178. We stress that the developed countries, given their historical responsibility, need to take the lead in addressing this challenge in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, particularly the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and equity, and provide financial and technological support to

developing countries in a transparent, adequate and predictable manner under a modality of monitoring, reporting and verification.

179. We reiterate that the extent to which developing countries will effectively implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will depend on the effective implementation by developed countries of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries.

180. We stress the need to urgently close the ambition gap, and express concern about the lack of fulfilment of commitments by developed countries. In addressing this gap, the focus must not be limited to mitigation only but also address gaps relating to finance, technology and support for capacity-building, balanced with a focus on adaptation to climate change. We emphasize that developed countries must take robust and ambitious mitigation commitments, with ambitious quantitative targets for limiting and reducing emissions, as required by science and mandated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

181. We reiterate the urgency of expediting the process of operationalizing the Green Climate Fund and for its early capitalization, and call upon developed countries to meet the goal of mobilizing $100 billion each year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

182. We affirm our support for the success of the meeting to be held in Venezuela ahead of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Lima, and reaffirm the need to achieve progress in negotiations towards an ambitious, balanced, fair and effective agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in accordance with its principles and provisions, to be agreed in 2015 and to enter into force in 2020 and that actually contributes to the stabilization of the climate system.

Biological diversity

183. We reaffirm the recognition contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development about the severity of global biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems, and emphasize that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, the provision of and access to water, and the health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations. This highlights the importance of the conservation of biodiversity, enhancing habitat connectivity and building ecosystem resilience.

184. We recognize the importance of the role of the collective actions of the indigenous people and local communities for the protection, use and conservation of biodiversity. We also reaffirm that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods. We further recognize that indigenous peoples and local communities are often most directly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems and thus are often most immediately affected by their loss and degradation.

185. We welcome the important outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, especially the commitment to doubling biodiversity-related international financial flows to developing countries by 2015 and at least maintaining this level until 2020 to contribute to the achievement of the Convention's three objectives. We also call upon the parties to the Convention to review progress made in this context at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties ,owards adopting a final target for resource mobilization.

186. We welcome the realization of the joint briefing held on 30 October 2013 by the United Nations Environment Programme, WIPO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNDP, UNCTAD, the secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, including actions taken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge. We note that similar interactions should be encouraged, recognizing the respective mandates of the organizations involved, and call upon all Member States, in particular developed countries, to speed up the process for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

187. We note with deep concern the unprecedented increase in poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and their products in all regions, in particular of elephant tusks and rhinoceros horns. We stress that this trend is detrimental to ecological balance, promotes crime within and across borders and must be halted with a sense of urgency to avoid reversing decades of conservation gains. We therefore strongly condemn poaching and crimes related to illicit trafficking in wildlife, and agree to enhance international cooperation in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and other relevant agreements to curb such practices, address the demand and supply of wildlife and its products and increase the capacity of communities affected by such trafficking to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Forests

188. We highlight the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests to people and the contributions of sustainable forest management to the objective of sustainable development. We support cross-sectoral and cross-institutional policies promoting sustainable forest management (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development), and recognize the importance of the holistic, integral and alternative approaches for the sustainable management of forests developed under the climate change negotiations.

189. We note the outcome of the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 8 to 19 April 2013, and underscore the importance of the four global objectives on forests for the international community as a whole and in particular for developing countries. The fourth global objective is especially relevant for developing countries since it identifies the need to reverse the reduction in official development assistance and to mobilize new and additional financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management. In

fulfilling the fourth global objective, it is essential to respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries. In this regard, we urge developed countries to exercise strong political will and flexibility to contribute to the achievement of sustainable forest management.

190. We call for the establishment of a new global forest fund in line with the principles of sustainable development. We consider that this is necessary in order to channel the funds needed by developing countries to sustainably manage their forests.

Desertification, land degradation and drought

191. We reaffirm that desertification, land degradation and drought represent serious concerns for developing countries. International action is, therefore, urgently required to address these challenges. We emphasize the great importance of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, particularly in Africa, stressing that desertification, land degradation and drought undermine the three dimensions of sustainable development. We reiterate that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought enables countries to deal with several global policy challenges, such as food security, adaptation to climate change and forced migration. In this context, we note the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held from 16 to 27 September 2013 in Windhoek.

192. We reiterate the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information and forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels. In this regard, we invite States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information and forecasting and early warning systems.

Oceans and seas

193. We stress the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and the creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change. We therefore commit to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development.

Internet governance, including the right to privacy

194. We view with dismay that some countries have recently been undertaking extensive, arbitrary and unlawful surveillance and/or interception of communications, including extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of communications as well as the collection of personal data, including on a mass scale, on people and institutions in other countries, including on political leaders, senior officials and various government departments and agencies, as well as citizens. We call for the ending of such activities, which violate the human right to

privacy of individuals and have a negative impact on the relations between countries. In this regard, we all call for intergovernmental entities to discuss and review the use of information and communications technologies to ensure that they fully comply with international law, including human rights law, in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

195. We welcome the NETmundial Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance held in São Paulo, Brazil, on 23 and 24 April 2014, and take note of its outcome document.

196. We emphasize the important opportunities provided by information and communications technologies, including social media and related infrastructure, as a vehicle to promote better understanding among nations and the achievement of internationally agreed upon development objectives.

197. We recognize at the same time that the illegal use of information and communications technologies has a negative impact on nations and their citizens. In this regard, we express our strong rejection of the use of information and communications technologies in violation of international law, including the right to privacy, and of any action of this nature directed against any Member State, in particular a State member of the Group of 77.

198. We further underscore the importance of ensuring that the use of such technologies should be fully compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular the principles of sovereignty, the non-interference in internal matters and the internationally recognized rules of civil coexistence among States.

199. In this regard, we take note with concern of the information published in international media about the objectives of the so-called "ZunZuneo" network, which would constitute an illicit use of new information and communications technologies.

200. We therefore reiterate our commitment to intensifying international efforts directed at safeguarding cyberspace and promoting its exclusive use for the achievement of peaceful purposes and as a vehicle to contribute to both economic and social development, and highlight that international cooperation, in full respect of human rights, is the only viable option for fostering the positive effects of information and communications technologies, preventing their potential negative effects, promoting their peaceful and legitimate use and guaranteeing that both scientific and technological progress is directed at preserving peace and promoting the welfare and development of our societies.

Millennium Development Goals

201. We express our commitment to strengthening efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and to taking a leading role in shaping the international development agenda during the post-2015 period. We call upon the international community to redouble all efforts for the accelerated achievement of the Goals by 2015 through concrete measures.

202. We note the progress achieved so far in reaching the Millennium Development Goals but are concerned about the unevenness and gaps in achievement and about the vast socioeconomic and environmental challenges that remain in developing

countries. We reiterate that the Goals remain critical for meeting the basic needs of people in developing countries, many of which are not on track to achieving them by 2015.

203. We underscore the central role of the global partnership for development and the importance of Millennium Development Goal No. 8 in achieving all the Goals and that without substantial international support and systemic changes, several of the Goals will not be achieved in many developing countries by 2015. We call upon the international community to intensify its efforts to provide enhanced means of implementation to developing countries through a renewed global partnership based on the collective quest to eradicate poverty and deprivation.

Sustainable development and sustainable development goals

204. We recall and reaffirm the statement made by world leaders in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

205. We reiterate that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

206. We stress that sustainable development goals should address and be focused on the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and be guided by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, respecting all the Rio Principles and taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities.

207. We reaffirm that the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is the basis for the work of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals. We underscore the importance for the sustainable development goals to build upon and complement the Millennium Development Goals in making progress towards the overarching objective of achieving poverty eradication.

208. We stress that progress in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda will depend on progress in creating a pro-development, international, enabling environment and delivering the relevant means of implementation, particularly in the areas of finance, trade, technology and capacity-building, to developing countries.

209. We reaffirm that the guiding principles of the sustainable development goals must be based on all principles set out at the major United Nations summits and conferences in the social, environmental and economic fields, bearing in mind those

set out in, among others, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and those arising from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012), the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002) and the World Summit for Social Development (1995), and be consistent with international law. The process and outcome of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals should fully respect all the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The sustainable development goals should contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all the major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.

210. We reaffirm the recognition that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, and note that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development. We are convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environment needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature. We call for a holistic, integrated approach to sustainable development, which may include, among others, the recognition by some countries of the principles mentioned above, to guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems.

211. We welcome the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, held on 22 April 2013, to commemorate International Mother Earth Day. At the event, different economic approaches were discussed in the context of sustainable development, to promote a more ethical basis for the relationship between humanity and Earth, as was the need to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, bearing in mind the importance of exploring the adoption and implementation of policies to build national developmental strategies that promote a better distribution of benefits, going beyond the mere production of raw commodities, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/214.

212. We stress that the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals must be the result of an inclusive intergovernmental process. Thus, we reaffirm our commitment to actively engaging in such negotiations.

213. We underscore the need to define adequate means of implementation for each and every sustainable development goal, as well as the need for a dedicated sustainable development goal on the strengthened global partnership for sustainable development containing broader commitments on the means of implementation and international cooperation for sustainable development.

Post-2015 development agenda

214. We reaffirm the centrality of a just, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiation process in the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda, as decided at the special event towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2013. We stress that this intergovernmental negotiation process will need to focus on its modalities and substantive aspects to arrive at a negotiated and agreed outcome document, taking fully into account the outcomes of the various follow-up processes mandated at the United Nations

Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as of the major summits and conferences related to the social, economic and environmental fields.

215. Recalling the statement made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, we emphasize that poverty eradication must remain the central and overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda. We strongly support the view that the post-2015 development agenda should reinforce the commitment of the international community to eradicate poverty by 2030.

216. We underline the need for a coherent approach to the post-2015 development agenda, which should reinforce the commitment of the international community to poverty eradication and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner with the contributions of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, the financing for development process, the Intergovernmental Committee on Experts for Sustainable Development Financing, the process to develop options for a United Nations technology facilitation mechanism and other relevant processes.

217. We reaffirm that the post-2015 development agenda must fully adhere to the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

218. We underscore the importance of strengthening the global partnership for development, to be based on quantified and time-bound targets, consistent with Millennium Development Goal No. 8 and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the post-2015 development agenda. North-South cooperation remains the core of this partnership and South-South and triangular cooperation are a useful complement to North-South cooperation. Strengthened commitment from developed countries is therefore required to enhance international cooperation and scale up support for developing countries. We emphasize the need for developed countries to urgently fulfil the official development assistance commitments they have made, individually and collectively, including the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance by 2015 and the target of allocating between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance for least developed countries.

219. We emphasize that the post-2015 development agenda must meaningfully address issues of reform of the institutions of global economic governance in order to strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in decision-making in these institutions. We also note that the global economic, financial and trading systems remain imbalanced, to the disadvantage of developing countries, and in this regard we stress the importance of identifying, in the post-2015 development agenda, the weaknesses and imbalances of these global systems and of proposing actions for improvements with the aim of supporting the development agenda and the programmes of developing countries.

220. We affirm the need for a sound implementation mechanism for the post-2015 agenda to ensure development resources for the attainment of goals. In this regard, we call for the intensification of development financing, for the establishment and

improvement of mechanisms of technology transfer and for the enhancement of efforts to build the capacities of developing countries.

221. We call for a responsible accountability approach to be adopted on the question of partnerships involving the United Nations, particularly as regards participation of the private sector, civil society and philanthropic entities. In this regard, we reaffirm the need to enhance transparency, coherence and sustainability, as well as accountability to Member States, in United Nations partnerships, and stress the need to ensure that procedures exist for the consideration and approval of any such initiatives by Member States in the General Assembly, in order to preserve the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations.

222. We emphasize that the post-2015 development agenda should be an agenda for development, and in this context it is important to advance economic, social and environmental development in a comprehensive, balanced and coordinated manner. This agenda should be broader than that of the Millennium Development Goals and aim to include areas, issues and groups of populations that are key to achieving sustainable development.

223. We also stress the importance for the post-2015 development agenda, if it is to be global in nature and universally applicable to all, to fully respect the development policy space of developing countries to make use of policy tools and measures that are required to implement their policies for poverty eradication and other developmental plans and programmes. We also stress that the post-2015 development agenda should promote rapid, sustained and inclusive economic growth in developing countries as a key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger and reducing inequalities within and among countries.

Part V: Particular needs of developing countries in special situations

224. We recall the special needs of Africa, the only continent currently not on track to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We recognize that, while economic growth is returning, there is a need to sustain the recovery, which is fragile and uneven, to face the ongoing adverse impacts of multiple crises on development and the serious challenges these impacts pose to the fight against poverty and hunger, which could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Goals in Africa.

225. We express profound concern about the fact that the commitment to doubling aid to Africa by 2010, as articulated at the summit of the Group of Eight held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom, was not entirely reached, and in this regard we stress the need to make rapid progress in order to fulfil that and other donors' commitments to increase aid through a variety of means, including the provision of new additional resources, the transfer of technology and the building of capacity of African countries, and to support their sustainable development. We call for continued support for Africa's development initiatives, including Agenda 2063 (a continental strategic vision and priority framework for socioeconomic development), the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. On the other hand, we welcome the support that some developing countries have extended to Africa through South-South and triangular cooperation programmes.

226. We express concern for the situation in the least developed countries, which continues to deteriorate as a consequence of ongoing multiple and mutually exacerbating global crises. The global financial and economic crisis currently under way is clearly undermining development in the least developed countries. The modest development gains that these countries have made over the years are being reversed, pushing a larger number of their people into extreme poverty. Many least developed countries continue to lag in meeting most of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We emphasize the need for the full and effective implementation of the commitments made in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. We further underline the critical need to realize expeditiously a renewed and strengthened global partnership for the least developed countries in order to overcome their structural challenges, eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation from the category by 2020.

227. We recall that the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States have been acknowledged by the international community at various United Nations meetings, including those held in Rio de Janeiro (1992), Barbados (1994), Johannesburg (2002) and Mauritius (2005), and note with concern that insufficient steps have been taken at the international level to address the vulnerabilities and effectively support the sustainable development efforts of such States. We recall that climate change and sea level rise pose the greatest threat to the survival and viability of small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development goals, and call on the international community to commit itself to urgently increasing international cooperation to support those efforts, particularly through increased financial resources, capacity-building, transfer of technology and know-how, and increased participation of small island developing States in international economic decision-making. We welcome the decision to convene the third International Conference for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2014, in Apia, and call for enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States in implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. We commit to work towards a strong outcome for the Apia conference that supports small island developing States in their sustainable development needs and aspirations.

228. We recognize the special needs of and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries caused by these States' lack of territorial access to the sea, which is aggravated by their remoteness from world markets, and also express concern about the fact that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges the international community faces, including the financial and economic crisis and climate change. We stress the need for the international community to enhance development assistance to landlocked developing countries to help them overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and set themselves on a path of sustainable social and economic development. We reaffirm the need to urgently address the special development needs of and challenges faced by landlocked and transit developing countries through their genuine partnership with sufficient support and cooperation from the international community for the effective

implementation of priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action and its successor programme. We welcome the decision of the General Assembly to hold a comprehensive ten-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, and call upon the international community to critically consider the special needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, and to help develop priorities for a new, more comprehensive, common action-oriented framework of landlocked developing countries for the next decade.

229. We recognize that middle-income countries still face significant development challenges, and underline that, despite the recent progress achieved and the efforts made by middle-income countries, 75 per cent of the world's poor population lives in those countries. The achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the achievement of full employment and the creation of jobs for youth, the diversification of their economies, and the development of technologies continue to be huge challenges for middle-income countries. We underline the increasing solidarity and role played by middle-income countries in the area of South-South cooperation in support of the development efforts of other developing countries. We also note the outcomes of the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries organized by Costa Rica and UNIDO in June 2013.

230. We stress the need for the United Nations development system to ensure that it addresses the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries in a coordinated manner through, inter alia, an accurate assessment of the national priorities and needs of these countries, taking into account the use of variables that go beyond per capita income criteria and recognizing the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, and through adequate, systemic and better-focused support in accordance with national plans.

231. We reiterate our call for the immediate and full withdrawal of Israel, the occupying Power, from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and from the remaining Lebanese occupied land. We reaffirm our support for a Middle East peace process aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) and 1850 (2008), and the principle of land for peace. In this context, we also reaffirm our support for the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States in March 2002.

232. We stress the need for the early realization by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination and to the independence of their State of Palestine to allow for their stability, prosperity and development towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, to which all peoples are entitled. We express support for the efforts of the Palestinian people to achieve independence and welcome in this regard the submission by the State of Palestine of its application, on 23 September 2011, for full membership in the United Nations, and notes the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which it accorded to Palestine non-member observer State status in the United Nations. We continue to support the admission process of the State of Palestine to become a full member of the United Nations as soon as possible. We recall that 2014 was declared the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

233. We condemn the ongoing Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the illegal actions by the occupying Power that continue to cause civilian casualties, socioeconomic and humanitarian hardship and destruction to Palestinian properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands, and to undermine the contiguity, unity and integrity of the Territory.

234. We express deep concern about the further decline of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly in the besieged Gaza Strip, as a result of the illegal Israeli practices, including construction of settlements and the Wall and the imposition of a blockade and hundreds of checkpoints. We call upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease immediately all illegal measures impairing the Palestinian economy and development, including, in particular, the inhumane and illegal blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including commercial trade throughout, into and out of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to make reparation for all damages caused to Palestinian properties, institutions and infrastructure. We reiterate our call upon the international community to continue providing much needed developmental and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people during this critical period, particularly for reconstruction and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip.

235. We reaffirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources, and demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.

236. We reaffirm the need for the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Malvinas Islands, which seriously damages the economic capacities of Argentina, and the need for both parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended by the General Assembly.

237. We reaffirm the need to find a peaceful solution to the sovereignty issues facing developing countries, including the dispute over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, which was unlawfully excised by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius, prior to independence, in violation of international law and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965. Failure to resolve these decolonization and sovereignty issues would seriously damage and undermine the development and economic capacities and prospects of developing countries. In this regard, we note with great concern that despite the strong opposition of Mauritius, the United Kingdom purported to establish a "marine protected area" around the Chagos Archipelago, which contravenes international law and further impedes the exercise by Mauritius of its sovereign rights over the archipelago and the right of return of Mauritius citizens who were forcibly removed from the archipelago by the United Kingdom.

238. We take note of the Havana Declaration adopted at the Second Summit of the Community of the Latin American and Caribbean States, held on 28 and 29 January 2014.

239. We reaffirm our firm rejection of the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries, and reiterate the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. We emphasize that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. We therefore call on the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries.

240. We express our rejection of unilateral lists and certifications by some developed countries affecting developing countries, in particular those referring to terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and others of a similar nature.

241. We reiterate our call, made at the second South Summit, organized by the Group of 77 and China and held in Doha in 2005, for the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as to the principle of neighbourliness, causes huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. We urge strict compliance to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on this matter. We also take note that in the Havana Declaration, the Heads of State and Government of the Community of the Latin American and Caribbean States reaffirmed their strongest rejection of the implementation of unilateral coercive measures and once again reiterated their solidarity with Cuba, while reaffirming their call upon the Government of the United States to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on that sisterly nation for more than five decades. They rejected the inclusion of Cuba in the list of States sponsors of terrorism published by the State Department of the United States, and requested that an end be put to that unilateral practice.

242. We reaffirm our rejection to the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on the Sudan, which have a negative impact on the development and prosperity of the people of the Sudan, and in this regard call for an immediate lifting of those sanctions.

United Nations A/68/949–S/2014/484

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 July 2014
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 110
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 10 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the following information:

We write to you further to our previous letters concerning the systematic terrorist war that is being waged against the Syrian Arab Republic.

On the morning of Wednesday, 9 July 2014, Syria awoke to yet another wave of systematic terrorism from which even children in their homes were not safe. At dawn on Wednesday, 9 July 2014, an armed terrorist group perpetrated a horrific massacre against the people of the village of Khattab in the northern countryside of Hama. This terrorist attack resulted in the deaths of 14 civilians, including seven women and children. The terrorists butchered all of the innocent civilian victims and mutilated and disfigured their bodies and then decapitated them. It should be noted that the bodies show clear signs of torture.

The Minister of Justice has issued a decision forming a special judicial committee to conduct the necessary investigations into the terrorist crime that occurred in the town of Khattab in Hama governorate.

This despicable crime is yet another example of the crimes being committed by extremist and *takfirist* terrorists who have demonstrated yet again their disregard for human values. These terrorists have targeted the institutions of the State, its infrastructure, its schools and its hospitals with the clear support of both Western and Arab capitals, which are providing money, weapons, training and shelter to terrorist groups.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic draws the attention of both the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to the details of this crime. It expects the Security Council to condemn clearly this despicable crime and take serious measures against those States that support terrorist groups, at the

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forefront of which are permanent members of the Security Council, as well as other States, principally Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar.

If the Security Council is serious about countering terrorism, then it should take genuine and tangible measures to put an end to the recruitment and arming of terrorists and their dispatch to Syria. These actions are occurring in full view of the international community and with the sponsorship and support of States that are permanent members of the Security Council, in addition to other States, at the forefront of which are Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar. The time has come for the United Nations to act immediately in order to end the support being provided by States Members of the United Nations for terrorism and to armed terrorist groups. The threat of terrorism is not restricted to the Syrian Arab Republic, but will extend to all States of the world. The Organization must also oblige those States that are complicit in supporting, arming, training, funding and sheltering terrorists to cease those practices immediately, in accordance with United Nations mechanisms and resolutions.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic puts this important information before the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It expects the necessary measures to be taken to restrain the regimes in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar from continuing to incite and support terrorism, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the most important of which are resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1989 (2011).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/68/950–S/2014/486

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 July 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 35, 36 and 52

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 11 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as a Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), I have the honour to attach hereto the text of the Final Communiqué of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of OIC on the grave situation in the occupied State of Palestine, including Al-Quds al-Sharif, which was adopted in Jeddah, on 10 July 2014 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 36 and 52, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Al-Mouallimi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 11 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Final Communiqué of the Expanded Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Minister on the Grave Situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif

The Executive Committee

Convened in its expanded extraordinary meeting at the level of foreign minister, held at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) General Secretariat in Jeddah on 10 July 2014 (11 Ramadan 1435),

Proceeding from the principles and objectives of the charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and pursuant to the OIC resolutions on the issue of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif,

Paying tribute to the Palestinian people's resistance in the face of the Israeli aggressions and reiterating its support for the Palestinian people's just struggle to recover their inalienable national rights, including the concretization of the sovereignty of this independent State of Palestine with Al-Quds/Jerusalem as its capital,

Affirming that the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, which encompass Gaza and the West Bank, including Eastern Al-Quds, constitute a single geographic unit,

Following closely the barbaric military campaign executed by the Israeli occupation army in the Gaza Strip through the use of war planes and heavy weapons targeting hundreds of positions in the besieged Gaza Strip, most of them residential homes occupied by civilians, civilian facilities, infrastructure and farming areas, which has led to the martyrdom and injury of hundreds of Palestinian civilians, including many children, women and the aged,

Condemning in the strongest terms the heinous crimes of abduction and assassination perpetrated against the Palestinian youth Mohamed Abu Kdhir at the hands of extremist settlers in the occupied city of Al-Quds, expressing its condolences and deep consolation to the Palestinian people on the child's martyrdom, endorsing the massive international condemnation of this outrageous crime, holding Israel, the occupying authority, fully responsible for the fallouts of such barbaric acts and crimes perpetrated by the extremist settlers against the Palestinian people, as the party that aided their establishment on the occupied Palestinian territories,

Reaffirming that the continued Israeli crimes and exactions in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the military aggression, the judaization of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the siege and the settlement activities, constitute grave war crimes and violations of international law and a blatant infraction of the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy,

Reaffirming that the brutal military aggression which Israel, the occupying authority, continues to perpetrate all across the occupied Palestinian territories, forms a blatant violation of international law, and a serious threat to the security and stability of the entire region,

Having reviewed a report submitted by the State of Palestine on the grave situation in Palestine and the violations perpetrated by Israel, the occupying authority, in the city of Al-Quds/Jerusalem, and its aggressions against the civilian inhabitants and the sacred places including the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and having listened to H.E. the Foreign Minister of the State of Palestine and the interventions of Their Excellencies the ministers, heads of delegations and the OIC Secretary General;

1. Strongly condemns the ceaseless brutal Israeli raids of the Gaza Strip, with the use of fighter jets and heavy weapons, which destroyed scores of homes and buildings over the heads of their inhabitants, and claimed the lives of dozens of martyred Palestinian civilians and maimed many others.

2. Calls on the international community, and in particular the United Nations Security Council, to shoulder its responsibility in preserving international peace and security and taking every necessary measure to put an end to the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and to ensure Israel's abidance by the resolutions of international legitimacy and international law.

3. Calls on the OIC Member States to act in favour of the early convening of an emergency open session of the United Nations Security Council to examine the current Israeli violations and aggressions against the Palestinian people, their homeland and their sacred places, and to put an end to the Israeli aggression and provide the necessary protection for the Palestinian people.

4. Requests the OIC Ambassadorial Group in Geneva to act in favour of the convening of an emergency session of the Human Rights Council with a view to setting up a special international task force to investigate Israel's crimes and violations against Palestinian human rights and its continued aggressions against the Palestinian civilian inhabitants.

5. Invites the Secretary General, in coordination with the chairmanships of the Islamic Summit and the Council of Foreign Ministers and with Palestine and the chairmanship of Al-Quds Committee, to set the established ministerial Contact Group in motion without delay, including initiating contacts with the influential international parties, acting for an immediate end to the Israeli aggressions and conveying the OIC's message on the city of Al-Quds/Jerusalem.

6. Invites the State of Palestine to complete the process of its accession to all international organizations and Covenants, and more particularly to the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.

7. Calls on the international community to include the leaders of the settlers and the extremist settler communities, including "Price Tag" and "Hilltop Youth" factions, on the list of terrorists and criminals wanted for international prosecution by the states of the world and the international community organizations, and underlines the need to pursue these crimes legally in all international fora and relevant institutions concerned with international criminal law.

8. Calls on the Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to convene a meeting to define the measures that need to be adopted to impose observance of the Convention in the occupied State of Palestine, including Eastern Al-Quds/Jerusalem, and to take the necessary practical measures to put an end to the ceaseless violations and crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupation and the settler militias against the civilian Palestinian citizens.

9. Strongly condemns the settlement activities of Israel, the occupying authority, and the transfer of its citizens to the occupied Palestinian territories, including Eastern Al-Quds, which constitute the main reason behind the crimes perpetrated by the settlers and which are war crimes under international humanitarian law and violations of resolutions of the United Nations, particularly of the United Nations Security Council, as well as obstacles that stand in the way of the resumption of a credible peace process and that jeopardize the chances of achieving the two-state solution.

10. Strongly condemns the ongoing Israeli acts of incitement, aggression and violation in occupied Eastern Al-Quds and particularly in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and stresses that the continuation of these racist acts is bound to have serious repercussions on the security and stability of the entire region.

11. Calls on the international community to take immediate action to compel Israel to lift the illegal and inhuman Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip.

12. Reiterates its support for the National Consensus Government under the leadership of the Palestinian president, and calls on the international community to provide it with the necessary assistance to ensure its success, and not to allow Israel to undermine the Palestinian government, including through its withholding of the collected Palestinian taxes.

13. Calls for a prompt international intervention to end the Israeli abusive detention campaign, which has affected, over the past few days, more than 800 Palestinians, including parliamentarians and recently liberated prisoners, including pre-Oslo prisoners, and to act for their release. The Committee also underlines the illegitimacy of the occupation courts and their rulings. In this regard, it reiterates that the freedom of all the detainees, foremost the Members of Parliament, is a basic condition for the achievement of peace, and expresses, accordingly, its full support for the international campaign for the freedom of the leader Marwan Al-Barghouthi and all the other prisoners, and for the Robben Island Declaration.

14. Calls for the boycott of the companies that operate in the colonial settlements established on the occupied Palestinian territories, settlements that constitute a violation of the rights of the Palestinian people and an infraction against United Nations resolutions and international law, in accordance with the list of companies submitted to the OIC by the Palestinian government.

15. Calls for the constitution of an international legal team in the OIC to conclude and follow up the setback with regard to the criminal cases of Israeli leaders at the International Criminal Court and conclude the State of Apartheid case against the current Israeli government, and for the necessary budgetary allocation to be provided for such a team.

16. Requests the Secretary General to conduct a comprehensive review of all Summit and Council of Foreign Ministers resolutions on Al-Aqsa and Al-Quds

Al-Sharif, the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, monitor those that are yet to be implemented and follow them up with relevant Member States.

17. Requests the Secretary General to follow up Member States' commitment to the concept paper on supporting Al-Quds that was approved at the 40th Council of Foreign Ministers meeting held in Conakry.

18. Reaffirms the importance of continued close coordination and cooperation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement, the other international organizations and the international community, to ensure a comprehensive follow-up of the grave situation witnessed in the occupied Palestinian territories as a result of the escalated Israeli aggression, and to take the necessary steps to compel Israel to stop these brutal actions.

19. Invites Member States, OIC institutions and Arab and Islamic funds to provide urgent support for the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, particularly in the health sector to confront the serious shortages of resources, drugs and medical equipment resulting from the unjust Israeli blockade of, and unceasing military attack against, the Gaza Strip.

20. Expresses appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Arab Republic of Egypt to end the Israeli aggression and achieve calm; commends the decision to open Rafah crossing to receive the wounded and provide the necessary treatment to them, and invites Member States to contribute urgently to the provision of the needed health care to the wounded and extend assistance to the inhabitants of the Strip.

21. Agrees to the Committee addressing individual messages, through the OIC Secretary General, to each of the five permanent Member States of the United Nations Security Council, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the President of the European Union to denounce the recent Israeli escalation in the occupied territories, and to call for prompt action to stop the aggressive Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian citizens, and for the adoption of the necessary steps to put an end to the said hostile practices, which constitute a violation of the principles of human rights, in addition to calling on them to shoulder their responsibilities in preserving international peace and security and in compelling Israel to abide by international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

22. The participating delegations expressed thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for convening the meeting and for its wise chairmanship thereof.

23. The participating delegations expressed thanks to the Secretary General for efforts he exerted to prepare for the meeting, which contributed to its success and to the achievement of its objectives.

24. Mandates the Secretary General to assume coordination such as to ensure the proper follow-up and execution of the provisions of this declaration.